Jordan Times
An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
يومية تصدر باللغة الانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الرأي

Betselem urges action against Shin Bet agent

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli human rights group Betselem on Wednesday called for international action against a Shin Bet security agent who admitted to killing two Palestinian hostage-takers. Betselem, in a statement, asked each of the 96 nations who signed the International Convention Against Torture "to arrest and try Shin Bet agent Ehud Yatom if they find him in their country. 'This is the first time the organisation has made such an appeal." Yatom cannot be arrested in Israel because he is the beneficiary of an amnesty. But nothing prevents him from being arrested abroad," the group said. Betselem said the convention obligates signatory countries to pursue suspected torturers.The organisation is also pressing the Israeli government not to give a public post to Yatom.

Palestinian minister visits Syria

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian Agriculture Minister Abdul Jawad Saleh wrapped up a two-day visit to Syria Wednesday, official sources said, in a new sign of improved relations between Damascus and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). The official PNA television said Mr. Jawad Saleh discussed "issues of common interest" Tuesday in Damascus with his Syrian counterpart, Assad Mustapha, and visited the northern town of Aleppo on Wednesday. The visit was seen as a sign of improved relations between the PNA and Damascus following a recent rapprochement between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and PNA President Yasser Arafat. The two leaders met during Arab summit in Cairo in June and Mr. Arafat travelled to Damascus last month in the first direct contacts between the two since the Palestinians infuriated the Syrian leader by signing a peace agreement with Israel in 1993.

Volume 21 Number 6294 AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, AUGUST 8-9, 1996, RABI I, 23-24, 1417 Price: Jordan 150 Fils

King, in talks with Arafat, reiterates total support for Palestinian rights

HM briefs Palestinian leader on meeting with Netanyahu, stresses that all parties involved should live up to agreements

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Wednesday discussed the Middle East peace process and the King reiterated Jordan's full support for the Palestinians' quest to regain their rights on their soil, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

During the meeting, held at Aqaba, the King also briefed Mr. Arafat on the talks he held with Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu who visited Amman on Monday, Petra said.

The King and President Arafat focused on the peace process, coordination to face the current situation and obstacles that are blocking the process, Jordan Television reported.

The two leaders did not address the press. Mr. Arafat returned to Gaza after the meeting.

Petra said that during the meeting, attended by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh and other senior Jordanian and Palestinian officials, the King also underlined the need for all parties involved in the peace process to remain committed to the cause of peace and pursue peace negotiations to achieve a comprehensive settlement.

The King also stressed the need for the various Jordanian-Palestinian committees to start implementing their agreements. He expressed hope the implementation of these agreements would improve the economic conditions of the Palestinian people.

The King's comment came after Mr. Arafat spoke about the general economic conditions of the Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A senior Palestinian official, quoted by Agence France Presse, said Mr.

(Continued on page 7)



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat kisses His Majesty King Hussein on the forehead as the Monarch receives him upon his arrival at Aqaba for a working visit on Wednesday (Reuters photo)

Assad rejects 'Lebanon first' deal saying option does not have framework for peace

ALEXANDRIA (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad rejected on Wednesday an Israeli proposal to end its occupation of South Lebanon first before making full peace with Damascus.

"Syria and Lebanon first — at the same time, in the same steps," Mr. Assad told a news conference after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Lebanon and Syria are tied in a "brotherhood, cooperation and coordination" agreement which gives Damascus a greater say on Lebanese military, political and economic issues.

"We heard several days ago that (Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin) Netanyahu sent an appeal to Syria via the United States to resume negotiations, but without outlining a framework that would give peace a chance," Mr. Assad said.

"Reading this proposal, we do not feel that those who drew it up are committed to peace," the Syrian leader told a press conference.

The statements by the Syrian leader were his first public response to a series of offers by Mr. Netanyahu to reopen peace talks stalled since before Israel's elections last May.

Mr. Assad said Mr. Netanyahu's insistence on ignoring the land-for-peace formula agreed on for peace talks meant that restarting negotiations would lead nowhere.

"They (the Israeli government) want to resume the peace process without any foundation or ground for action," he said. "I don't think that this will lead to any result."

He did not give details of the Israeli invitation but said Mr. Netanyahu "did not mention any formula which indicates to anybody that there is a glimpse of hope for any future peace.".

"It is not necessary that we read out the invitation," Mr. Assad said. "But anyone who reads it will never feel that this invitation is the road to peace or that who wrote it is interested in the peace process."

Mr. Assad did not reveal the basis of the Israeli overture. In recent days Mr. Netanyahu has mentioned the idea of negotiating peace with Lebanon — which is virtually under Syrian control — before discussing the main Syrian-Israeli differences.

But he also said he was willing to discuss "all outstanding issues" with Syria, which was seen as a possible signal he was backing off his refusal to return the Golan Heights to Syria as part of a peace treaty.

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi was quick to oppose the Israeli offer made last week and Syria described it as a "trap" aimed at sabotaging the good ties between Beirut and Damascus.Mr. Netanyahu said last Friday he was ready to withdraw Israeli troops from southern Lebanon if Hizbollah guerrillas were disarmed and the security of northern Israel was guaranteed. He envisaged this

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. clears way for Iraq oil deal

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United States on Wednesday announced that it had lifted its objections to an oil-for-food deal with Iraq, clearing the way for the resumption of limited Iraqi oil exports.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright told reporters here that the Clinton administration "is prepared to move ahead on (U.N. resolution) 986" providing for the oil-for-food arrangement.

"The United States is looking forward to the implementation of 986," she added.

The U.N. Sanctions Committee, which groups all 15 Security Council members, was to meet later in the day and was expected to formally approve the technical guidelines which had been blocked by Washington since the deal was agreed in May.

The oil-for-food arrangement, whose implementation was formally agreed by Iraq and the United Nations on May 20, enables Iraq to export $2 billion worth of oil every six months in return for humanitarian supplies.

But a number of other details must be sorted out, before Iraqi oil can begin flowing again.

Four overseers must be named at U.N. headquarters — expected to be from France, Norway, the United States and Russia — and U.N. monitors must be deployed at Iraqi arrival points to check the entry of humanitarian supplies.

U.N. inspectors must also be deployed at the Iraqi oil outlets to check the exports.

Ms. Albright said that Washington had "wanted to ensure that all the procedures were appropriate" before giving final approval to the deal.

The oil-for-food deal is a temporary humanitarian exemption to U.N. sanctions imposed following the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The oil embargo is to remain in force until Baghdad complies with U.N. disarmament requirements

The sales procedures were blocked last week by the U.S. delegation, irritating the chairman of the Sanctions Committee, Tono Eitel of Germany. "This is a humanitarian effort begun by the Americans," he said, describing himself as "troubled and very sad."

The U.S. delegation gave no reason, but State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns suggested Monday it was to ensure "that Saddam Hussein has no chance to enrich himself, and that's been our bottom line all along."

Meanwhile, the United States and other members of the sanctions committee are reviewing an application from Turkey for partial exemption from the trade sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council on Iraq as punishment for its invasion of Kuwait in 1990, Mr. Burns said.

Jordan has been granted an exemption, allowing it to purchase oil and to export some goods to Baghdad.

Iraq was one of Turkey's biggest trading partners before the Gulf war, which was fought to reverse Iraq's annexation of Kuwait. Turkey has lost hundreds of millions of dollars a year in trade resulting from the shutdown of an oil pipeline from fields in Kirkuk, Iraq, to the Turkish oil terminal Yumurtalik on the Mediterranean coast.

"We believe that we have earned the right to a similar treatment and that our application will be accepted," a Turkish foreign ministry spokesman said last week.

Mr. Burns said one consideration in reviewing Turkey's application will be the impact of the sanctions on Turkey's economy. "We're pleased that Turkey has very recently assured the U.S. that it continues to comply with the U.N. sanctions regime," he said. "The United States' position remains that sanctions should be in place, they should remain in place, they should be observed by all countries. Saddam Hussein's defiance of the United Nations, his disregard for the suffering of his own people, led to these sanctions in the first place."

Threats of retaliation mount against U.S. sanctions bill on Iran and Libya

PARIS (Agencies) — France on Wednesday vowed quick retaliation if its companies are affected by U.S. sanctions against investing in Iran and Libya, as other countries joined in the protest.

But while the tenor was fierce, there were indications the sanctions bill President Bill Clinton signed Monday would have little immediate effect or substantive reaction.

Tehran's oil minister predicted the U.S. measures would have no impact on his country's oil production, and Libya said Mr. Clinton was merely shopping for votes in the November election.

The sanctions, aimed at pressuring Iran and Libya to abandon their alleged support of terrorist groups, was the latest irritant between Washington and its partners.

An anti-Cuban sanctions bill recently caused similar outcry.

After a cabinet meeting Wednesday, French government spokesman Alain Lamassoure promised action, but only in the conditional.

"If it appears that French companies are affected by these measures, France would have to make immediate retaliatory action," he said.

U.S. vows to go it alone, page 12

Mr. Lamassoure added that any action would be coordinated with France's 14 European Union (EU) partners, who have continued so-called "critical dialogue" with Iran as they maintain extensive trade ties.

The sanctions, aimed at Iran and Libya's oil production on which Europe heavily depends, could affect the French oil companies Total and state-owned ELF-Acquitaine. But the two companies have already invested hundreds of millions of dollars there and were not expected to sign any new contracts soon.

Together, Iran and Libya provide a fifth of all crude oil imports to the EU.

Denmark urged conciliation, noting the EU and the United States agreed at a July 30 anti-terrorism conference to close ranks.

"Thus we don't disagree on the goal. But we disagree on the means," Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen said in a statement. "In the present situation it is crucial that the quarrel doesn't mount. The way ahead is cooperation."

(Continued on page 7)

24 deputies threaten House boycott in row over TV coverage

By Tareq Al Momani
Special to The Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of 24 members of Parliament have threatened to boycott the Lower House of Parliament's session indefinitely if the government failed to instruct Jordan Television to air their views against the government's plans to change the form of subsidies for bread and animal feed.

The 24 deputies, who had aired their views and voted against the government's move during Monday's session which was convened to discuss the subsidies question, claim that the television failed to present the full session to the viewers.

Islamic Action Front (IAF) party member Abdullah Akaileh said that his group was seeking to collect signatures of at least 27 deputies who intend to boycott the House sessions.

The group aborted Wednesday's scheduled session by staging a sit-in at an adjacent hall, depriving the House of a quorum.

Appeals and mediation efforts by other deputies failed to persuade the group to change their mind. House Speaker Saad Hayel Srour was forced to declare the cancellation of the session due to lack of quorum.

Without the 24-member group only 44 deputies showed up for the meeting, 10 less than the quorum. Of those boycotting the session were 15 IAF members.

In remarks on this development, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said: "Democracy will survive despite the obstacles laid by some people in its path and those who claim monopoly over truth and ignore other parties' views."

"We will not succumb to deputies' blackmail because we consider the nation's interest above all other considerations," said a government source without further elaboration.

The House debated the question of subsidies for two days this week during which 51 members addressed the House, which heard the prime minister's reply. The speaker put forth a proposal by the 24-member group urging the government to refrain from increasing the price of bread and animal feed.

The House voted down the proposal but decided to form a committee to prepare a draft of all the deputies' proposals to be submitted to the government and to voice support for the change in the form of subsidy but to seek mutual consent on the new prices and the mechanism to provide compensation to the public.

By changing the form of subsidy, the government seeks to prevent further wastage and smuggling of bread. It has promised to provide the public with monthly compensation to offset the increase in prices.

Speaking for the 24-member group, Deputy Akaileh said: "The government twisted the deliberations that took place last Monday because it concealed from the television viewers the voting over the question of subsidies and only aired the views of government supporters. We consider this to be misleading to the public over one of the most serious issues of concern to the Jordanian people."

"We have decided to suspend our attendance of Parliament sessions until the government complies with our request of screening the whole parliamentary session. We are now collecting deputies' signatures declaring resignation from Parliament and hope to collect at least 27 signatures to achieve that goal and prevent the House from securing a quorum of 54 out of 80," added Mr. Akaileh

"The government's behaviour is an encroachment on the House's dignity and Parliament's role as a constitutional watchdog over government's actions," he added.

Speaker Srour met for more than three hours with the opposition group trying in vain to persuade them to change their minds.

Speaking afterwards, Mr. Akaileh said: "Mr. Srour promised to exert his efforts to ensure that television will screen the opposition group's views, if he failed he would ban Jordan Television cameras from the Parliament building."

Mr. Akaileh considered the government's moves as "a grave blunder." The government would have sustained no harm had it allowed the public to hear the views of the 24-member opposition group, he said.

The prime minister had met with the parliamentary committee set up to discuss with the government the new rates of prices of bread and fodder. Committee rapporteur Samir Habashneh said after the meeting: "We have not reached any agreement with the prime minister over the prices but we are going to submit to the House our recommendations and our justifications."

Mr. Habashneh added: "The committee believes that should the government go ahead with its own plans and increase prices of animal feed and bread it would overburden the public."

"The majority of deputies are against the government's plans but preferred not to voice their outright rejection or outright support during Monday's session," added Mr. Habashneh.

In a separate statement, the committee announced that it has submitted to the government two options:

1. Fixing the price of a kilo of bread at 130 fils, with the government providing compensation of JD1.28 monthly to each citizen registered with the National Aid Fund.

2. Fixing the bread price at 150 fils a kilo with the government providing a JD1.28 a month to holders of food coupons who already benefit from subsidies on sugar, milk and rice.

On animal feed, the committee suggested that a tonne of corn be sold at JD 140 up from the present JD 116 and down from the government's price of JD 160 bran at JD75 up from the present JD 52.5 and down from the government's proposed price of JD 100, and barley at JD 100, up from the current price of JD 85 and down from JD 120 as suggested by the government.

Meanwhile, University of Jordan students staged a March in the campus in protest against government plans to increase the price of bread.

Speakers rejected the plans, which, they said, would further aggravate the economic situation in Jordan.

Levy said considering resignation in running dispute with Netanyahu

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Foreign Minister David Levy may resign if Premier Benyamin Netanyahu keeps shutting him out of decision-making on the peace process, close associates said in the Israeli media on Wednesday.

In a sign of the escalating dispute between the two long-time political rivals, Mr. Levy failed to attend a special cabinet session called by Mr. Netanyahu early Wednesday, reportedly to discuss Israel's response to latest attacks on Israeli troops in southern Lebanon.

Mr. Levy also planned to boycott a meeting later Wednesday of the parliamentary foreign affairs and defence committee, Israel public radio reported.

His absences followed statements by Mr. Netanyahu late Tuesday on Israeli television in which he made clear that he had no intention of handing over responsibility for directing Israel's peace efforts to the foreign minister.

"The nation chose me to safeguard what belongs to the state ... there can only be one prime minister," he said when asked about reports that Mr. Levy was bristling over his exclusion from key foreign policy initiatives.

"Mr. Levy is upset, angry and hurt and he will not allow Mr. Netanyahu to take him for a ride," a close associate of the foreign minister told the newspaper Haaretz.

The aide said Mr. Levy was "bound to resign," possibly as early as Friday's weekly cabinet meeting, if the dispute is not resolved.

Since coming to office in June, Mr. Netanyahu has relied on his own staff, notably foreign policy advisor Dore Gold, to run contacts with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Arab governments involved in the peace process.

The issue came to a head over the weekend when it became known that no foreign ministry official would accompany Mr. Netanyahu on his first official visit to Jordan, which took place on Monday.

Officials said Mr. Levy was also furious that Mr. Netanyahu has refused to put him in charge of a steering committee due to oversee the resumption of negotiations with Yasser Arafat and the PNA

"This matter, which is at the centre of the peace process, should be in the hands of the prime minister," Mr. Netanyahu said in

(Continued on page 7)

Erbakan: No plan for talks with PKK

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey's Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan Wednesday denied press reports that his government planned to open indirect peace talks with the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

"We don't sit at the negotiating table with terrorists. We don't make concessions to them," Mr. Erbakan told reporters here after a weekly meeting with President Suleyman Demirel.

"It is not possible for us to give up the principle of a unitary state," Mr. Erbakan said. "Any press report going beyond this is fabrication."

The liberal Istanbul daily Sabah reported at the weekend that Mr. Erbakan had met the Islamist Kurdish writer Ismail Nacar, who is known to have contacts with PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, to discuss ways of settling the Kurdish question.

Sabah and a number of other newspapers said Mr. Erbakan could be planning to open indirect talks with the PKK through Mr. Nacar, sparking a controversy in the government.

Mediators said meanwhile PKK rebels will release eight soldiers captured during clashes with the Turkish army.

Mr. Nacar, one of the mediators who is close to the ruling Welfare Party, told the Associated Press that the rebels were not asking anything in return.

Rather, Mr. Nacar said, the rebels wanted to make a goodwill gesture.

No date has yet been set for the release of the eight, who were taken captive last year or this year.

There are thousands of captured rebels in prisons.

A leading official from the conservative True Path Party of Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller, the junior partners in Mr. Erbakan's coalition, said Monday that Turkey could start indirect talks with the PKK if the separatist group rejected violence.

"We're not for sitting at the negotiating table with an armed gang. But if they (the PKK) leave aside arms, then there can be indirect talks," said Mehmet Golhan, True Path deputy leader.

But Mr. Golhan's remarks were attacked Tuesday by his own party leader, Mrs. Ciller, who ruled out any kind of talks with the PKK. "We won't negotiate with terrorists," she said.

Both right-wing and leftist opposition leaders also oppose talks with the PKK.

Since the PKK launched its armed campaign for a Kurdish homeland in southeastern Turkey in 1984, successive Turkish governments have categorically rejected any dialogue with the outlawed separatist group.

Until his Wednesday remarks, Mr. Erbakan had been silent on the press reports and Mr. Golhan's remarks.

Mr. Ocalan, who says he is willing to hold talks with the Turkish government, declared a unilateral ceasefire in December. However, Ankara has refused to abide by the truce and fighting is currently continuing between government troops and PKK rebels in southeastern Turkey.

Bahrain jails 6 for bombing, arson

MANAMA (AFP) — Six Bahrainis were each sentenced to three years in prison and three others were jailed for two years for bombing and arson attacks during anti-government unrest, a newspaper said Wednesday.

The state security court jailed five of them for three years and fined them 500 dinars ($1,328) each for exploding a device in a private school in the suburb of Sitra, damaging a room, the Gulf Daily News said.

The court jailed one for three years and three others for two years for setting fire to a shoe repair shop in Manama, it added.

It fined three of them 500 dinars each.

The sentences raised to 89 the number of Bahrainis jailed since June by the special court whose rulings cannot be appealed.

Bahrain has been hit by unrest since December 1994, which has led to the deaths of at least 23 people including three police officers. But the opposition said 28 "martyrs" have died.

Shiite Muslims are demanding that the mainly Sunni Muslim government restore the parliament it suspended in 1975 and end what they call job discrimination.

The government has accused Iran of trying to overthrow it by arming and financing a terrorist group called Hizbollah Bahrain.

Tehran has rejected the allegations.



Several ultra-orthodox Jewish rabbis are handcuffed to one another on Wednesday during a protest outside the central police station in West Jerusalem (Reuters photo)

Orthodox Jews burn garbage cans and stone policemen

TEL AVIV (AP) — Hundreds of religious Jews set garbage cans on fire and threw stones at police in an ultra-Orthodox neighbourhoodTuesday to protest police treatment of their community, Israeli media reported.

Religious Jews from the neighbourhood of Mea Shaarim blocked a main intersection and scuffled with police who tried to break up the protest. Israeli radio said four protesters had been taken in for questioning.

Tuesday's protest comes after five other demonstrations by religious Jews, all which have fallen on Saturdays, to protest traffic on the Jewish Sabbath down a main city thoroughfare which runs through a religious neighbourhood.

Observant Jews view driving on Saturdays as a violation of the Sabbath and have been trying to close Bar Ilan street.

Secular Jews have vowed to keep the road open and have been driving in protest convoys down Bar Ilan every Saturday.

The Bar Ilan demonstrations have often been violent with police using water cannons and batons to disperse religious Jews who threw stones and garbage at the cars.

Radio reports said demonstrators Tuesday were protesting the arrest of a religious youth accused of stone throwing during a Saturday demonstration and the behaviour of the Jerusalem police during the Saturday showdowns.

Archaeologists sent home

Archaeologists working on a salvage dig at Israel's largest construction site have been sent home by the new deputy housing minister, a rabbi who said it is more important to protect Jewish graves than it is to study the holy land.

The precedent-setting decision, announced Tuesday, could mean that religious politicians would also have the authority to stop digs and construction elsewhere in Israel, rich in ancient artefacts.

Many Israelis fear the decision by the deputy housing minister, Rabbi Meir Porush, is only the latest attempt by ultra-orthodox Jews to impose their values on the non-observant majority. Ultra-orthodox Jews, who usually live in separate neighbourhoods, obey their own rabbis and courts and live by a strict interpretation of Jewish law, have already won several battles since the May elections in which they won 23 seats in the 120-member parliament and were appointed to key government positions.

The government has decided to shut down a Jerusalem thoroughfare for most of the Jewish Sabbath. The housing ministry plans to build 20,000 homes for ultra-orthodox Jews. Separate health services are to be provided for the their communities. This was initiated after an observant girl who was not inoculated died from an easily preventable disease.

The dispute between archaeologists and ultra-orthodox Jews over Jewish burial sites has flared many times in the past, often leading to violent clashes between demonstrators and police. In Israel, archaeologists are called in to conduct salvage digs before the housing ministry gives the construction approval. About 200 of the 300 excavations run every year by the Israel antiquities authority are salvage digs.

Iraq loaded planes with chemical weapons in 1991, dissident reports

DUBAI (AFP) — Iraq loaded chemical-tipped bombs onto 15 fighter-bombers on the eve of the U.S.-led Gulf war to free Kuwait, but the planes never took off, an Iraqi dissident said in remarks published Wednesday.

Saad Al Bazzaz, former head of the official Iraqi News Agency (INA), also said in excerpts from his new book that President Saddam Hussein had planned to march on Saudi Arabia after invading Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990.

Mr. Bazzaz said in the excerpts published in the Arabic newspaper Al Hayat that chemical weapons were loaded January 15, 1991 onto 15 Sukhoi-24 fighter-bombers stationed at Al Bakr air base northeast of the capital Baghdad.

The planes were under the surveillance of the presidential security force, he wrote in his book entitled "Modern History of Iraq." But nobody gave instructions to the pilots and the planes were unloaded the following day.

The dissident, who was also former editor of the official Jumhuriya newspaper, said President Saddam had planned to launch a three-point offensive against Saudi Arabia just days after he had invaded Kuwait, but changed his mind.

The Iraqi president thought about attacking Saudi Arabia a second time after the Gulf war began on Jan. 17, 1991, according to Mr. Bazzaz who defected in October 1992.

He even asked his officers to develop a plan to "capture 5,000 American soldiers and put one of them as a human shield on every Republican Guard tank that would attack the region east of Saudi Arabia," he wrote.

The former Iraqi official also recalled the days leading up to the invasion, including the July 25 meeting between President Saddam and the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad, April Glaspie.

"Saddam Hussein came out of the meeting feeling jubilant, telling some of his advisors: "I gave the ambassador a lesson in diplomacy that the United States will not forget for a long time," Mr. Bazzaz recalled.

In the transcript of the meeting, President Saddam highlighted Ms. Glaspie's remarks which said Washington would not intervene in a conflict between Arab states, interpreting them as a green light for the invasion of Kuwait, he said.

Mr. Bazzaz, who now lives in Jordan, also disclosed that then-Defence Minister Abdul Jabbar Shanshal had not been informed of the invasion and first heard about it on the radio.

Only members of President Saddam's inner circle, made up mainly of members of his family, were informed.

He also said President Saddam had turned a deaf ear to military officials who had warned him many times that Iraqi technology and troops were no match for the U.S.-led forces which massed against them following the invasion.

President Saddam remained convinced until the end that the allies would not attack and that a diplomatic initiative could save him, Mr. Bazzaz said.

Sudan slams U.N. moves to impose air embargo

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese Aviation Minister Tigani Adam Al-Tahir on Wednesday warned the United Nations that an embargo against his country's flagship Sudan Airlines would devastate aid efforts in the war-torn south.

"The ban on Sudan Airways is unfair and lacks logic, legality and justice," Mr. Tahir said. "(It would lead to) the deterioration of humanitarian work and the delivery of aid to the affected areas."

A U.N. Security Council source said on Monday members were considering an air embargo against Sudan, which already faces diplomatic and travel curbs for failing to extradite three men accused of trying to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Sudan denies they are in the country.

The new mandatory sanctions would include a ban on international flights by Sudan Airways and other Sudanese government aircraft and closing the airline's offices abroad.

Mr. Tahir said Sudan Airways had already sent a message to the council through Sudan's permanent representative at the U.N. detailing what he called the social, economic and humanitarian role of the airline.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Osman Taha was quoted by the official SUNA news agency as saying neighbouring Egypt was spearheading efforts to tighten the embargo on Sudan, despite its public opposition to tougher sanctions.

"Egypt has refused from the very beginning the toughening of sanctions against Sudan," an Egyptian Foreign Ministry official said on Tuesday.

Sudan's Islamist-backed military government, fighting a 13-year-old civil war against southern rebels, faces increasing isolation over Arab and Western allegations that it harbours militant groups bent on toppling secular governments in the Middle East.

Sanctions were first imposed on Sudan on April 26 and went into force on May 10.

They include a reduction in the size of Sudan's diplomatic and consular missions abroad, restrictions on the movements of remaining diplomatic staff and a ban by all countries on the entry or transit of members of the Sudanese government, civil service and armed forces.

'No slavery in Sudan'

A Khartoum newspaper on Wednesday quoted U.N. human rights rapporteur Gasper Biro as saying there were no signs of slavery being practised in Sudan.

Mr. Biro, visiting Sudan for the first time after a two-year ban on charges that he insulted Islam was quoted by the state-owned Al Sudan Al Hadith as saying there was "no existence of practices of slavery in Sudan."

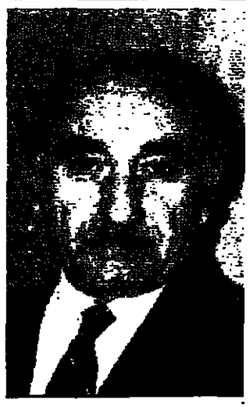
"There is a special committee for this issue that is coordinating with the Sudanese government and other concerned quarters to find out the truth about the allegations of the world community concerning this issue," he said.

International human rights groups have accused both sides in Sudan's long-running civil war of rounding up children into military camps.

They say the government of Omar Hassan Al Bashir has also turned a blind eye to marauding tribesmen in the west of the country who capture children and sell them into domestic service.

Mr. Biro, a Hungarian human rights lawyer, denied that he had recently said the human rights situation in Sudan was deteriorating, the newspaper said.

Iraqi poet, opposition activist dies in exile



Buland Al Haidari

CAIRO (AP) — Iraqi poet Buland Al Haidari, a long-time opponent of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, died Tuesday in exile in London of complications following open heart surgery. He was 70.

Mr. Haidari, a Kurd born in the northern Iraqi town of Erbil, was widely considered one of the best poets in free verse in modern Arab literature. Along with Bader Shakir Al Sayab, Nazek Al Mala'ika and Abdul Wahab Al Bayati, Haidari was a pioneer in the 1940s in free verse.

His first collection, "Beating of Clay," which was published in 1946 in Baghdad, was regarded by critics as a revolution in both shape and content.

His most recent collection, "Alleyways of Exile," was published last week in London.

Mohiddine Al Lathakani, the Syrian critic, described him as "a poet whose ability of imagination has put him in the forefront of modern Arab poets."

Mr. Haidari, a leftist, opposed President Saddam's one-party rule and left Iraq in 1982 to live in London, where he worked as literary critic for an Arabic weekly.

He also was an active member in the anti-Saddam opposition movement and a member of the dissident Iraqi Democratic Alliance.

He was admitted to the Royal Brimpton Hospital in London last month for open heart surgery but died Tuesday, apparently of complications, said Farouk Ridha'a, chairman of the alliance.

He said Iraq had told the family the body could be brought home for burial, but that his wife and son refused.

He will be buried Friday in London, they said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:05 Double Dragon
15:30 The New Three Stooges
15:35 N.B.A. Basketball
16:30 Take Your Pick (Game Show)
17:00 French Programme
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Carol and Company
20:00 Taratata
21:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
22:00 News in English
22:25 Feature Film — "Finding Mary March"

PRAYER TIMES

04:24.....Fajr
05:50(Sunrise) Duha
12:41.....Dhuhr
16:21'Asr
19:33 Maghreb
20:59.....'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh. Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
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Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures slightly above average and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

Amman 22/33
Aqaba 27/40
Deserts 20/37
Jordan Valley 26/39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32,Aqaba 39 Humidity readings: Amman 46 per cent, Aqaba 37 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sha'ir.....790405
Dr. Fayez Dabbas 759155
Dr. Fakher Belbeisi.....663412
Dr. Adnan Zaghloul.....898140
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu 281484
Al Quds pharmacy(—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Walid Halaseh 982799
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Reparis 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381/32
Khalidi Maternity, ...644281/6
Akileh Maternity, ...642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, ...775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ...865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital(09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital(02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.
Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

08:20.....Sanaa (RJ)
09:15 Dhahran (add) (RJ)
10:05 Riyadh (RJ)
10:20 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 New Delhi(RJ)
10:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
17:20 Moscow (RJ)
17:30 London (RJ)
17:30 Casablanca (RJ)
17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:00 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
19:15 Athens (RJ)
20:15 ...Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
20:25 Rome (RJ)
22:35 Tunis (add) (RJ)
01:15 Lamaca (RJ)

Other Flights

06:30 Tel Aviv (LY)
13:40 Doha (GF)
14:00 Riyadh (SV)
14:40 Shariqah (AH)
20:35 Cairo (MS)
20:55 Paris, Damascus (AF)
21:10 Beirut (ME)
23:20 Istanbul (TK)
23:25 London (KJ)
23:40 Amsterdam (KL)
03:00 Rotfle (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:50 Aqaba (RW)
19:45 Tel Aviv (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:35 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Moscow (RJ)
11:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:40 ...Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
12:15.....Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:15 Rome (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:10 Paris (RJ)
13:20 Athens (RJ)
13:25 London (RJ)
14:00 Tunis (add) (RJ)
20:35 Larnaca (RJ)
21:10 Cairo (RJ)
21:10 Madrid (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:45 Jeddah (RJ)
22:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights

07:25 Tel Aviv (LY)
07:45 Beirut, London (BA)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
15:30 Riyadh (SV)
15:30 Algiers (AH)
21:25 Cairo (MS)
23:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)
00:40 ...Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)
04:00 Rome (AZ)
06:00 Istanbul (TK)
06:40 London (KJ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

10:00 Aqaba (RW)
20:30 Aqaba (from Tel Aviv) (RW)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	700/500
Banana	600/600
Banana (*mukhammar*)	520/520
Banana (imported)	860/600
Carrot	170/90
Cauliflower	360/240
Cucumber (large)	240/140
Cucumber (small)	420/250
Eggplant	220/140
Garlic	650/400
Grapes	420/250
Lemon	700/400
Marrow (large)	250/150
Marrow (small)	430/260
Mulukhiah	120/80
Onion (dry)	150/80
Okra	850/500
Pea	520/300
Pear	800/500
Peach	800/500
Pepper (hot)	320/200
Pepper (sweet)	370/250
Potato	350/220
String Bean	780/500
Sweet melon	270/150
Tomato	120/70
Water melon	210/150



HRH Princess Basma Wednesday addresses the first meeting of the Jordanian National Forum for Women's rapporteurs and Higher Council (Petra photo)

'Women's forum elections to lead to larger achievements'

AMMAN (J.T.) — HRH Princess Basma Wednesday said the successful completion of elections for the Jordanian National Forum for Women (JNFW) was another achievement of Jordanian women, one that leads directly to the serious work that lies ahead in achieving larger aspirations.

In an address at the first meeting of the newly elected JNFW's 12 rapporteurs and the 12 appointed members of the JNFW's Higher Council Princess Basma said the elections have provided women with additional experience in the democratic process and political arena.

She added that the elections were conducted in a free and fair atmosphere. Princess Basma said JNFW members currently number more than 120,000. She said the majority participated in the elections which were supervised by 503 committees in various parts of the country working under the overall supervision of Jordan's first woman judge, Taghreed Hikmat.

Princess Basma added that JNFW was eager to expand its base and to represent all women's unions and groups in the Kingdom.

According to the Princess, nearly 71 per cent of the registered women took part in the elections, with Maan Governorate accounting for the highest single rate of 98.77 per cent.

She said that with the completion of the voting process and the appointment of the 12 members of the Higher Council the JNFW is set to start work adding that it will hold its first meeting today to elect a secretary and a treasurer as well as other committees.

Officials seek to attract tourists

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Tourism and Royal Jordanian (RJ) officials Wednesday met to discuss moves on improving coordination to attract tourists to Jordan and agreed to organise a larger meeting with tourism industry representatives.

Special attention was given to the launching of promotional programmes to attract groups from the U.S., Canada and Japan, countries in East and Southeast Asia and efforts to maximise their stay in the Kingdom.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Saleh Irsheidat and RJ President Nader Dahabi and focused on RJ's role in attracting tourists through competitive air transport fares as well as meeting the growing air travel demands of foreign tourism and that of travel agencies.

They also discussed opening an additional number of Jordanian tourist offices abroad, notably in the U.S.and Canada.

Amman to host medical conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — A European-Arab medical conference on gynaecology and obstetrics will take place next month in Amman.

The congress, to be attended by 100 specialists including 40 from Jordan, is scheduled to open on Sept.3.

According to Mohammed Zoubi, the president of the Jordanian Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, the meeting covers primary health care, prenatal care, ethics in the practice, gynaecology and oncology, assisted reproduction, family planning, menopause and its management as well as sexually transmitted diseases.

At a press conference Wednesday, Minister of Health Aref Bataineh announced that the meeting will be preceded by a two-day seminar on endoscopic surgery and ultrasound.



Minister of Health Aref Bataineh Wednesday announces plans to host an international conference on obstetrics and gynaecology in Amman at a press briefing (Petra photo)

Dr. Zoubi said 100 research papers will also be presented.

Lectures by specialists from France, Belgium, Italy and several Arab countries will follow.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* "Empire of the Sun" at the American Centre at the Embassy of the United States in Abdoun on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

PLAY

* Children's play "Shahrour and Traffic Rules" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* "Science for Health" exhibition at the British Council, in Jabal Amman until Aug. 17.

* Book exhibition by Hassan Abu Ghanimeh at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Aug. 9.

* Abstract (plastic) art by Hussein Da'seh and Nader Samarah on Jerusalem at the Orfali Art Gallery, in Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932), until Aug. 15.

* Graphic works by Eman Odeh at the Phoenix Art Gallery (Tel 695291), until Aug. 15.

* Photo exhibition by Hani Hourani entitled "People and Places" at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598), until Aug. 15.

Palestinian pilots to train in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Palestinian Minister of Transport and Communication Ali Qawasmi Wednesday announced that the training of Palestinian pilots and other civil aviation staff will take place in Amman at Queen Noor Civil Aviation Technical College.

He also promised that RJ will land the first aircraft at the soon to be completed Gaza airport.

During his four-day visit to Jordan Mr. Qawasmi discussed an air transport and civil aviation cooperation agreement between the two countries with officials from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and Royal Jordanian (RJ).

The minister also visited Queen Noor Civil Aviation Technical College and Queen Alia International Airport where he discussed the training of Palestinian pilots and other civil aviation staff.

He later toured the Royal Jordanian Training Centre which provides instruction to cabin crew staff of RJ and other airlines.



Palestinian Minister of Transport and Communication Ali Qawasmi (centre) Wednesday is briefed on the facilities at the Queen Noor Civil Aviation Technical College (Petra photo)

Specialists say eco-tourism requires community involvement

By Marian Nimry
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — According to a government official, to be successful, eco-tourism must be sensitive to local communities, environmental resources, and cultural and historical sites.

Eco-tourism is defined as the "integration of cultural elements and environmental management techniques [combined] with the economics of the site to produce a programme that will generate revenue for the people concerned."

At a seminar sponsored by several private sector companies and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), Mohammad Najjar, technical director at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, said Jordan's tourism industry needs to focus on the sustainability of tourism development not only through eco-tourism but also through cultural and environmental development.

The two-day seminar included a panel of speakers from governmental and private organisations who discussed and shared their experience in tourism including environmental and cultural tourism.

Dr. Najjar stressed that community involvement is essential to the sustainable development of this concept, novel to Jordan. "This sustainable development will stop within 10 or 15 years if the local communities are not involved on the planning, management and operational levels," Dr. Najjar said.

"We are not talking about making local residents into waiters and rangers but about real participation."

Tareq Abdul-Wahed, Dana Nature Reserve manager for the RSCN, highlighted the society's experience in eco-tourism.

"We are trying to integrate the conservation of nature with the socio-economic development of the local communities in and around the reserve," Mr. Abdul-Wahed said.

He explained that the RSCN initiated socio-economic projects to compensate the people of the reserve for the environmental restrictions put on them such as limitation on the grazing of livestock within the premises of the reserve.

The local community is encouraged and supported by the RSCN to produce and sell locally-made products and handicrafts such as jewellery, pottery and fruit desiccation.

"We don't need mass tourism at the reserve but we need enough visitors to bring sufficient income to the community as well as to the reserve."

Dr. Najjar stated that the Ministry of Tourism is seeking the redistribution of part of the JD 6 million government revenues from tourism to the municipalities to help them improve services and infrastructure.

For example, the ministry itself is painting the houses of the people of Wadi Musa, the entrance to Petra, he said.

He said if revenues could be allocated to the municipalities for similar projects, such upgrading would be advantageous to tourism.

"The communities living near tourist sites don't feel the need to protect these sites because they do not benefit economically. A major part of the new policy of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities is that tourist sites do not belong to the government but to all the people."

"Responsible tourism has to be in harmony with our local environment and should provide revenue for local communities" said Leen Fakhoury, who teaches archaeology at the University of Jordan.

"This means responsible behaviour towards culturally allied sites and archaeological sites is translated into responsible patterns of dealing with the environment and with local communities."

The seminar was organised by Eco-Tourism International, an American firm, and was attended by 80 participants.

New work permit fees announced

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakhanbeh Wednesday said that the government intends to raise the fees for foreign work permits from JD 100 to JD 150 for Arab labourers and from JD 300 to JD 400 for foreign labourers.

Recent news reports quoted the minister as saying that work permit fees would be increased several fold.

At a press conference Wednesday Dr. Shakhanbeh clarified the confusion by adding that Arab labourers working in agriculture will pay JD 25 up from JD 10 and foreigners in agriculture will pay JD 150 for work permits.

The Ministry of Labour has also announced plans to tighten on-site inspection against violations of the labour laws, which stipulate that non-Jordanians cannot undertake employment, paid or otherwise, without prior permission from the ministry.

Passports of visitors to Jordan are stamped with a stipulation that they should not take up employment in the Kingdom and should report to the nearest police station if their stay here extends more than 15 days.

The government has also imposed prior visa requirements for nationals from several Asian countries, including India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Thailand.

Egyptians constitute the bulk of the foreign work force in Jordan.

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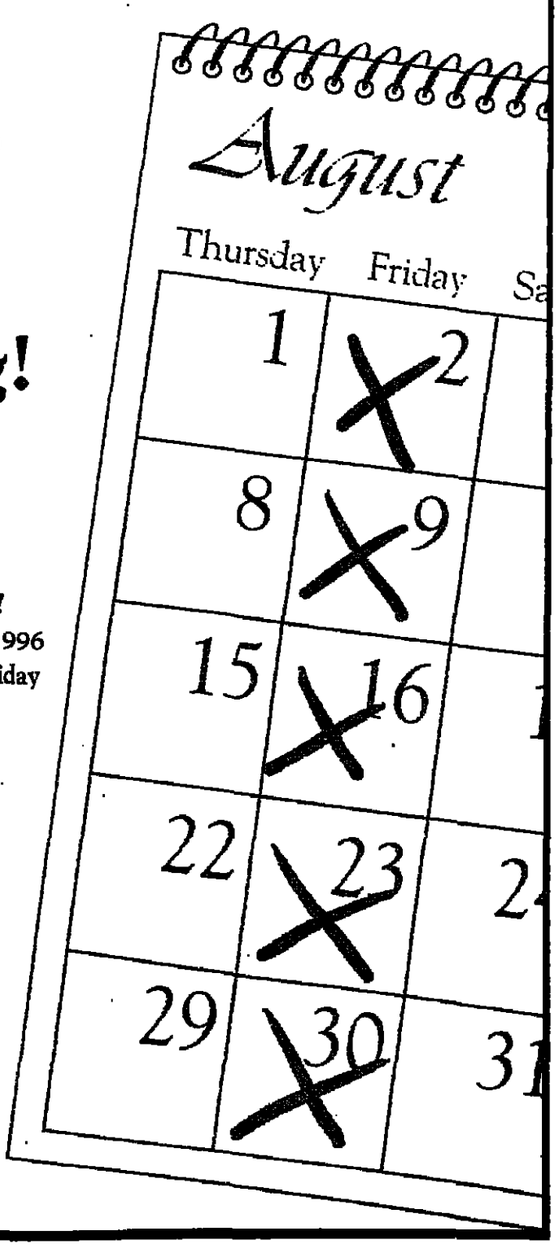
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Russian forces try to oust Chechen rebels from Grozny

GROZNY, Russia (R) — Russian helicopters sent rockets screaming against rebel positions in the Chechen capital Grozny Wednesday, stepping up efforts to dislodge separatists who say they are taking control of the city.

Interfax News Agency, in a report from its Grozny correspondent, said the rebels were blockading Russian troops in their own bases and were operating just 500 metres from the compound of the Russian-backed Chechen government.

"The correspondent reported that the city is effectively controlled by the rebels," the agency said.

The report could not be confirmed and Interfax quoted Doku Zavgayev, who heads the Russian-backed government in the north Caucasus region, as saying that the rest of Chechenya was under the control of "the legal organs of power."

Grozny residents cowered in cellars as fighting between rebels and Russian troops raged for a second day.

Snipers fired from rooftops and ruined buildings and Interfax said a rebel sniper had killed the commandant of Khankala Military Base, the heavily fortified stronghold of the Russian troops just outside the Chechen capital.

The raid was the rebels' biggest military offensive since they seized control of parts of Grozny exactly five months ago. It will cast a shadow over the inauguration of President Boris Yeltsin, due to take place in the Kremlin Friday.

The rebels said Tuesday that their action aimed to force Russia back to the negotiating table, but Russian officials said further talks with rebel leaders were now impossible.

A series of peace deals and ceasefires have collapsed and each side accuses the other of violating the truce.

Russian Deputy Interior Minister Pavel Golubets, quoted by ITAR-TASS news agency, said 29 Russian soldiers had been killed and 100 wounded. No casualty figures were available for the rebels, who want independence for their mountainous region.

Much of Grozny was reduced to rubble in Russia's first big offensive to capture the city at the start of 1995 and reconstruction work has barely begun, despite countless promises of Russian financial help.

"It's hot today — literally and figuratively," TASS correspondent Sergei Trofimov wrote from central Grozny.

More than 30,000 people, most of them civilians, have been killed in Chechenya since Russia sent troops into Chechenya in December 1994 to crush a three-year independence bid.

Russian news agencies reported overnight fighting in Argun, on the main road linking Grozny with neighbouring Dagestan.

Interfax quoted rebel leaders as saying they had destroyed 15 Russian armoured vehicles in the town, some 15 kilometres from Grozny.

Both sides have routinely exaggerated their achievements in the Chechen conflict and the figure could not be confirmed.

But the situation in Gudermes, which the Chechens said they raided Tuesday, was "absolutely calm," Interfax quoted city officials as saying.

The rebels' action demonstrated their resilience after a series of Russian statements that they were virtually finished as a cohesive fighting force after federal attacks on their strongholds.

The fighters — some Russian officials said Tuesday that 600 rebels were operating in Grozny — had few problems entering the sprawling city, despite strong rumours in the last week that the rebels were poised to attack.

Many people, but apparently not the Russians, said they knew that rebel Commander Ruslan Gelayev was in town preparing to strike.



R.O. Tambunan (2nd right), lawyer of the ousted leader of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) Megawati Sukarnoputri, accompanied by Alex Litaay (right), the PDI secretary-general before Ms. Megawati was ousted, arrive at the Jakarta Police Headquarters Wednesday to file a complaint with the police over the raid on the party's headquarters by her opponents. The July 27 raid to evict Ms. Megawati's supporters led to the worst riots in Jakarta in two decades, in which four people were killed (Reuter photo)

Indonesia's Megawati boosts political battle

JAKARTA (Agencies) — Indonesia's ousted opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri took her battle against the authorities a step further Wednesday when her lawyer filed a police complaint against her government-backed political rival.

Lawyer R.O. Tambunan said he had filed what he called a "criminal" complaint on behalf of the executive board of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) headed by Ms. Megawati before she was ousted as party leader in June.

Mr. Tambunan spent an hour at police headquarters accompanied by Alex Litaay, PDI secretary-general before the party was taken over by the opposing faction headed by parliamentary Deputy Speaker Surjadi.

Mr. Tambunan told reporters after filing the complaint that it related to a police raid on PDI headquarters on July 27 to evict Ms. Megawati's supporters in favour of Mr. Surjadi and a subsequent riot that rocked Jakarta.

Ms. Megawati has accused Mr. Surjadi of responsibility for the raid, which was followed by the worst rioting to hit Jakarta in more than two decades, leaving at least four people dead and a number of buildings and vehicles destroyed or damaged.

Mr. Tambunan said the complaint asked police to investigate Mr. Surjadi and four other people in relation to the attack on the PDI building and the riots.

Police now have to decide whether to pursue an investigation and pass the complaint to the prosecutor's office for further action.

"We have filed the complaint with the police on behalf of the PDI Central Executive Board... The complaint is about the attack on PDI headquarters on July 27 and the subsequent riot," Mr. Tambunan told reporters outside the police station.

Ms. Megawati herself is due to go to the police headquarters Friday as a witness for questioning in connection with the riots.

The government has blamed the disturbances on the small left-wing People's Democratic Party (PRD), led by Bambang Sudjatmiko, saying it was synonymous with the banned Indonesian Communist Party (PKI).

"Megawati will be accompanied by her lawyers Friday. Police have clearly stated that Megawati will appear as a witness in the case of Bambang Sudjatmiko," an aide told Reuters Tuesday.

The 49-year-old matronly mother-of-three has become a focal point for dissent in Indonesia. Political analysts have said the government was concerned about her vote drawing power in general elections due next year.

She is also suing the government and military for backing Mr. Surjadi in his takeover of the PDI. The case in the Jakarta Central District Court was put back to Aug. 22 because the chief judge was unable to appear at the initial hearing on Aug. 1 because of toothache.

President Suharto Wednesday accused the PRD pro-democracy group of subversive activities, echoing earlier government statements.

Mr. Suharto, at a monthly cabinet meeting on the economy, said the People's Democratic Party was "clearly involved in subversive activities," as quoted by Information Minister Harmoko.

The president said that the group "clearly uses the ways of the PKI" and warned that the Indonesian people should "be on the alert and maintain the unity of the nation."

Independent labour union leader Muchtar Pakpahan last week was arrested and charged with subversion, which carries a maximum penalty of death.

The European Union, the United States, Norway and the United Kingdom have expressed concern about human rights issues in connection with arrests following the Jakarta riots.



Members of the militant Muslim vigilante group People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (PAGAD) show their firepower during a march Wednesday. Tensions are high in the crime ridden Cape peninsula following the slaying of gang leader Rashad Staggie Sunday night after a similar march by PAGAD. Staggie, a co-leader of the notorious Hard Livings gang, died after being shot and set alight (Reuter photo)

South African Muslims give ultimatum to drug dealers

CAPE TOWN (R) — About 1,000 armed South African Muslims Wednesday warned Cape Town's drug dealers to stop dealing or risk the same fate as gang leader Rashaad Staggie, who was burned alive Sunday.

Chanting "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest) and "kill the merchants," supporters of the militant movement, People Against Gangsterism And Drugs (PAGAD), paraded through the silent early morning streets of Cape Town's mixed-race Silvertown district to the home of an alleged drug dealer.

Watched over by police in six armoured riot-control vehicles and a fleet of smaller trucks, and with a helicopter hovering overhead shining a spotlight on the crowd, they lay prone on a road shouting death threats to drug dealers.

A Muslim theologian who asked not to be identified said the vigilantes included Islamic fighters trained in Libya before South Africa's 1994 transition to democracy.

"Some of them are militant Islamists who believe that law and order is breaking down under majority rule," he said.

Libya's ambassador in South Africa rejected the allegations that his country was assisting PAGAD.

Most of the crowd, which included a handful of women, kept their faces covered and nearly all the men carried weapons ranging from an ancient chrome-plated revolver to repeating shotguns and at least one automatic rifle.

A young man toting a shotgun and with his face swathed in a red shawl delivered the message over a loud hailer, saying that anyone still dealing drugs by Sunday would be killed.

"From Sunday onwards, we are going to march on the houses of the merchants and we are going to take them out.

"We want no less than a gangster-free and a merchant-free society. We are calling for a just social order. All of us are prepared to make the maximum sacrifice in order to achieve that goal," he said.

Drug gangs dominate the streets in some of the poorer suburbs of South Africa's most picturesque city. PAGAD says the police are doing nothing to help, so they will.

Bodyguards warned reporters not to identify the man they referred to as "the Ameer" (the leader) and he warned journalists not to call PAGAD members vigilantes.

"We are disciplined, we are intelligent and we know exactly what we are doing. We are not vigilantes," he said.

A pall of fear hung over Cape Town's Muslim districts following threats by the hard livings gang to avenge the gruesome mob execution Sunday of Rashaad Staggie, co-leader with his twin brother Rashid, of the city's most feared gang.

Staggie, 40, was shot near his brother's home during a PAGAD march against drugs, prostitution and gangs.

As paramedics tried to tend him, he was set alight with a firebomb and left to run engulfed in flames through the crowd, whose members made way for him and threatened police who tried to go to his aid.

When he fell in a gutter, men took turns pumping bullets into him until he died and then kicked and battered his body.

Staggie's brother vowed at a sunset funeral Monday to avenge the death and told a Cape Town newspaper Tuesday: "It looks like war."

PAGAD's march ended without incident, but the man referred to as the Ameer said there would be a bigger march Sunday to wipe out remaining drug dealers.

Scientists struggle with solar radiation threat

CAMBRIDGE, England (R) — Scientists said Wednesday they were close to being able to predict the effects of solar radiation storms in the same way as weather forecasters predict rain.

The magnetic storms cause lightshows in the sky but can also endanger satellites, disrupt radio transmission and even interrupt electricity supply.

"It can cause anything from minor variations in GPS (the satellite global positioning system navigational aid) to catastrophic loss in spacecraft," John Dudeney, a physicist with the British Antarctic Survey, told a major conference of Antarctic researchers in Cambridge.

Scientists presenting their findings said the economic impact of such storms could be huge.

"A lot of the impacts are on commercial systems and people don't like to talk about them," Dr. Dudeney said. Military systems are also affected, but subject to similar secrecy.

Scientists hope to build systems similar to those used by meteorologists, where data about winds, rain and temperature are fed into a computer model to predict tomorrow's weather.

"We are now just reaching the stage where we have real hope that prediction could be possible," Dr. Dudeney said. "Computing technology and similar technology has moved on to where we can build computer models that have a chance of being accurate."

But understanding how the sun generates energy, how it travels to the Earth's magnetosphere and how it then disperses into the atmosphere involves fundamental physics that scientists do not yet understand.

Experiments aboard the doomed Ariane 5 rocket, which crashed just after take-off in June, would have offered insights, Dr. Dudeney said mournfully.

Burmese junta targets ethnic minorities for abuse — Amnesty

BANGKOK (AFP) — Burma's ruling junta has targeted ethnic minorities with forced labour, forced relocations, arbitrary detentions, extrajudicial killings, torture and ill-treatment, Amnesty International said Thursday.

Human rights violations also affected ethnic Burmans, who constitute the majority in Burma, and included rape, confiscation of food and domestic animals, imposition of arbitrary taxes and the burning of villages, human rights watchdog Amnesty said.

The abuses continued, Amnesty said, although its Myanmar: Human Rights Violations Against Ethnic Minorities report, released Thursday, dealt mostly with events in 1995 in Burma's eastern Mon and Shan states and Tenasserim division. Previous Amnesty reports have covered other parts of the country.

Ethnic minorities have been seized to serve for arbitrary periods as porters for the army on a widespread basis, subject to torture and ill-treatment at the whim of soldiers who often suspected they supported opposition groups, Amnesty reported.

"Types of ill-treatment included repeated beatings with bamboo sticks or rifle butts, and deprivation of food, water, rest, and medical treatment," and repeated rape, sometimes ending in the death of the victims, the report said.

"Others ... have been extrajudicially killed if they attempted to escape or were unable to carry their load," it added.

Hundreds of thousands of Burmese from virtually all ethnic groups, including children and the elderly, have also been repeatedly detained and forced to do hard labour, often under cruel and inhuman conditions, Amnesty said.

"In the last five years the SLORC has increasingly used forced civilian labour to build railway lines, airports, dams, quarries and roads throughout the country," Amnesty said.

SLORC refers to the military's ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council.

SLORC forced tens of thousands of villagers out of their homes in Shan state in the first half of 1996, telling them they would be shot on sight if found again in their villages, Amnesty said.

The Shan Human Rights Foundation, in a recent report, said at least 80,000 people were forced to relocate closer to towns or major roads, and villages left behind were often burnt down by the army. No assistance was given to the uprooted families.

The figure could be higher than 100,000 because subsequent interviews with refugees in Thailand revealed that other villages were affected, a Shan source in the northern Thai province of Chiang Mai said.

Those ordered to move were then subject to forced labour on new roads and tens of thousands of refugees fled to Thailand as a result, the source said.

"You can see their children running around construction sites all over Chiang Mai," the source told AFP.

"There has always been a flow of (illegal) workers but now their whole families have come over and they have no homes to return to."

Further south in Mon state and Tenasserim division, tens of thousands have been forced to work on infrastructure projects since offshore natural gas finds in 1993 prompted plans for a pipeline through the area to the Thai border.

In 1995, the last 10,000 ethnic Mon refugees were forcibly repatriated from Thailand to areas controlled by the rebel New Mon State Party (NMSP), but they remain refugees unable to return home and their numbers have grown, Amnesty said.

"In April and May 1996 alone, over 1,000 villagers fleeing human rights violations joined these repatriated refugees at the new camps in the areas in the Mon state administered by the NMSP," it said.

Most of them were fleeing forced labour projects such as the Ye-Tavoy Railway Line extension, interviews revealed.

India announces dates of Kashmir polls

NEW DELHI (R) — India announced Wednesday the dates of next month's local assembly elections in the troubled northern state of Jammu and Kashmir, the first assembly polls in the province in nine years.

Election Commissioner M.S. Gill told a news conference in the Indian capital that polling in the rebellious Himalayan province will be held on Sept. 7, 16, 21 and 30.

Last month, the commission said the polls would be held in September but did not set the dates. Authorities decided to stagger the dates to allow security forces and electoral officials to move from one area of the state to another.

The last elections to the 87-seat state assembly were held in 1987. The federal government dissolved the state assembly in 1990 after the outbreak of a separatist rebellion.

Police and hospital officials say more than 20,000 people have died in the revolt.

There was sporadic violence in Jammu and Kashmir during elections to the federal parliament in May. Those were the first parliamentary polls in the state since 1989.

The government denied claims by separatist leaders and human rights groups that security forces compelled many voters to cast ballots in May.

Car hijacker bites off driver's ear

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A South African driver had his left ear bitten off by an attacker who tried to hijack his van in a plush suburb of Johannesburg, the Star newspaper said Tuesday. Albino Lopez, 63, shot dead one of the three men who tried to force him to hand over his vehicle in the upmarket Rosebank shopping area. The other two fled and Mr. Lopez was taken to hospital. Car hijackings are rife in the Johannesburg area, the industrial heartland of a country with one of the world's worst violent crime rates.

Teacher forced pupils to drink urine

BEIJING (AFP) — A schoolteacher in Guiyang, in the southern Chinese province of Guangxi, has been fired for forcing unruly pupils to drink urine, the Guangming Daily reported Wednesday. Thirteen children in the second form (U.S. junior high school), aged about 12, were forced to drink "between one and three capfuls of urine, mixed with water, between May 13 and 24" after they played around in class or failed to do their homework, it said. A pupil was tasked with gathering the urine from the school toilets, which in many cases in China are merely pits. After the punishment, "some of the children were taken ill with vomiting and others rushed to a nearby pond to rinse out their mouths," the paper said. The teacher, identified as Huangqiuyu, also threatened to impose a fine of 10 yuan ($1.2) on any child who told the outside world of her system of punishment. Despite this, word leaked out and the teacher was fired, along with the school headmaster.

Embassy protests 'Turkish' baths in S. Korea

SEOUL (AFP) — The Turkish embassy here lodged a strong protest in a statement published here Wednesday against South Korean "Turkish baths," asking owners not to use the word "Turkish." In a statement, the embassy said Turkey has no "brothels" of the kind that South Koreans called Turkish baths, which provide sex services as well as saunas. "Furthermore, it is almost impossible for Turkish men to receive massage from a woman who actually practices prostitution because Turkish people are sensitive to privacy," said the statement quoted by Seoul newspapers. The statement traced the origin of the South Korean baths to Japan where Turkish baths were once popular among men seeking sex with female employees. But Japan, which ruled Korea from 1910 to 1945, stopped using the name "Turkish" for such baths 10 years ago, it said. The statement coincided with a South Korean government crackdown on "Turkish baths" mostly in tourist hotels.

27 women rescued from forced prostitution

HONG KONG (AFP) — Authorities have rescued 27 women, including a 13-year-old girl, who had been forced into prostitution in the southern Chinese city of Zhuhai, the Ta Kung Pao reported Wednesday. Two leaders of the syndicate, identified as Wu Shixuan and Zhu Xianfeng, from Sichuan province, were arrested, but another one, Chen Zhongle, managed to escape, the China-backed daily said. The syndicate recruited the women from Hubei province under the pretence of finding them work in factories in Zhuhai, which borders the Portuguese enclave of Macau. But the women were forced to work as prostitutes in order to cover the expenses of meals and lodging, the report said.

World



...ndian troops leave Para... ...ami Reuter photo

Rwanda to ... new Burundi ...



Sri Lankan troops leave Paranthan to resume their assault on Kilinochchi, the LTTE's base on the northern Tamil mainland (Reuter photo)

Rebels slow Sri Lankan troops with ferocious attacks; toll climbs

COLOMBO (AFP) — Tamil guerrillas have mounted a ferocious counter-attack to bog down government forces advancing against their razed political headquarters in northern Sri Lanka, government sources said Wednesday.

Infantry troops, backed by tanks and ground-attack aircraft, had not made any substantial progress in the past two days of their bid to capture the rebel-held town of Kilinochchi, the sources said, as fighting entered its fourth straight day.

Government soldiers were moving slowly through rice fields to avoid mines planted on the main road to Kilinochchi, where the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) recently moved its political headquarters after losing its Jaffna stronghold, officials said.

The Defence Ministry said the toll among security forces rose to 47 dead and about 70 wounded by Tuesday evening and placed Tiger losses at 263 dead and more than 100 wounded.

"Tigers are firing from fortified bunkers and trenches," a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

"But artillery and close air support is being used to neutralise terrorist positions."

The Tigers, in a statement from their London office, said they were resisting the military onslaught and placed their losses at 51 killed.

"So far 51 LTTE fighters have attained martyrdom in resisting the military advance towards Kilinochchi," the LTTE said, adding that government forces were pounding the area with artillery and ground-attack aircraft strikes.

Officials said fighting continued Wednesday and troops remained three kilometres from the town of Kilinochchi. The battle for Kilinochchi was seen by many military analysts as being of symbolic importance to both sides.

Having lost a key garrison and up to 1,300 soldiers to the LTTE last month, the government was keen to salvage troop morale and save face with the tit-for-tat attack on Kilinochchi, analysts said.

Kilinochchi is the last Tiger bastion after their humiliating rout in Jaffna, further to the north, following a series of military operations launched last October.

The Defence Ministry said the air force continued to engage "terrorist positions in depth," causing serious damage to identified rebel locations.

The LTTE said government forces tried to penetrate rebel defences but were halted by a fierce rebel counter-attack.

"There are no worthwhile buildings left (in Kilinochchi)," the LTTE said.

"Artillery shells and aerial bombs have reduced all concrete structures to heaps of rubble."

However, the town remains outside the control of the armed forces, the Tiger statement said, adding that security forces were hitting civilian targets in the area.

Some 200,000 Tamil civilians in Kilinochchi were displaced by the fighting and, facing a serious food shortage, had fled south, the Tigers said.

The LTTE is fighting for Tamil independence in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern regions. More than 50,000 people have died in bitter fighting here in the past 23 years.

Rwanda to work with new Burundi government

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Rwanda has no intention of imposing unilateral sanctions against Burundi's military-backed regime which seized power last month, Rwanda's Vice President and Defence Minister Paul Kagame said Wednesday.

"We are saying we are going to work with them, to help them (the new government) find a solution," General Kagame told the BBC in an interview monitored here.

Pierre Buyoya, a Tutsi major, ousted Hutu President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya in an army-led coup on July 25, but his government has so far received no international recognition. Mr. Ntibantunganya is still holed up at the residence of the U.S. ambassador in Bujumbura.

Rwanda's position defies a decision taken by seven regional African countries at a summit last week, attended by Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu, to impose economic sanctions against Burundi.

So far, the embargo has been imposed only by neighbouring Tanzania and Kenya, vital trading channels for the tiny landlocked central African republic.

The other four countries represented at the summit in Arusha, Tanzania, were Zaire, Ethiopia, Uganda and Cameroon, as chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Gen. Kagame, interviewed in the United States by the BBC, was critical of the summit, saying a mechanism should have been put in place so that imposition of sanctions was a regional measure, rather than country-by-country.

"for us, this is again something that was not well handled. I think the whole thing should have been handled in the regional context. ... so it is not again every single individual country in the region that should start doing one thing or the other," Gen. Kagame said.

"I think it's a question of now these countries getting together and working out what to do. We're still waiting for the region to decide on that. ... It is the region that decides on the sanctions."

Gen. Kagame, a member of Rwanda's Tutsi ethnic minority, said Rwanda was "not necessarily" very happy to work with the new regime in Burundi.

"But we are saying, what was there before the coup was not necessarily any better than what you have today. So, we are only trying to make the best out of whatever situation there is at the moment," he said.

Rwanda and Burundi share a similar ethnic mix, with Hutus making up a majority of around 85 per cent and Tutsis forming a powerful minority.

Gen. Kagame led the Rwandan Patriotic Front (former Tutsi rebels) to victory against the former Rwandan Hutu armed forces in July 1994, bringing to an end a bloody civil war in which around 500,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed.

There are fears of a similar bloodbath in Burundi, where tens of thousands of people have been killed in ethnic violence since the country's first democratically elected Hutu president was killed in a failed coup in October 1993.

Meanwhile Tutsis in Burundi's ethnically-torn capital went on a hoarding spree Wednesday as Hutu peasants ignored a call by their exiled leaders to join an economic embargo against the military junta.

The price of salt delivered from Tanzania, a key indicator of the economic crisis on Bujumbura's sleepy markets, trippled as black market punters cashed in on hoarding by consumers.

Traders reported panicky buying of some imported consumer goods while the commerce minister called on salt speculators to stop speculating immediately.

"Everyone knows there's plenty of salt on the market. I ask all salt speculators to stop speculating immediately," Frederic Nzabampema told state radio.

Kenya and Tanzania, economic lifelines for landlocked Burundi which imports its fuel and relies 90 per cent on coffee and tea for hard currency, have closed all borders, ports and airports to the tiny central African nation.

Uganda, viewed as lord of the Tutsi armies in Burundi and Rwanda, has yet to join the sanctions package. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni helped Gen. Kagame to power and is a key military and political ally of Rwanda.

Oil importers in Rwanda's capital Kigali said they were getting calls from Burundian middlemen trying to buy petrol.

Economists say Burundians can weather the sanctions for several months since they produce their own food, but a petrol shortage could prove devastating for the economy as well as the 20,000-strong army.

Mr. Nzabampema said the government had petrol stocks enough for two months and decided against fuel rationing, but some fuel stations in Bujumbura introduced a kind of self-rationing.

On Tuesday, Jean Minani, head of the main Hutu political party FRODEBU whose leaders fled to Kenya after the coup, appealed from his new exile base in Nairobi on Hutu peasants living in the hills surrounding Bujumbura to join the sanctions.

But the Hutus, driven out of their capital in a series of violent army operations last year, dismissed the call and continued to bring vital food supplies to Bujumbura.

The peasants who supply the city with vegetables, fruits, milk and meat from the mountains need the money and the Tutsis need the food.

Army sets up outpost after Filipino rebel pullout

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AFP) — Muslim guerrillas who occupied a small island near this southern city completed their pullout Wednesday and the military said it will set up a permanent outpost there.

In Manila, President Fidel Ramos played down the occupation of the island, saying the 200 Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) guerrillas were only there because they were hungry.

Military spokesman Fredesvindo Covarrubias said the last of the guerilla unit, which had occupied Limaong since last week, had pulled out by noon, adding many of the villagers who fled the island were returning.

He said the army has decided to set up a permanent detachment on the island, 60 kilometres north of here, apparently to guard it against the return of the MNLF.

The occupation of the island threatened an interim peace agreement forged between the government and the MNLF. However, MNLF forces agreed to withdraw after a joint ceasefire monitor ruled they were violating the terms of the truce.

Mr. Ramos said Mnlf Chairman Nur Misuari had ordered the guerrillas to withdraw and hailed the peaceful settlement of the incident, saying it showed the ceasefire mechanism was working.

"They were not there to raid or take over the island. They were really just looking for three meals a day because of their hardship," Mr. Ramos said, without elaborating.

Mr. Ramos also warned the executive council of this city against their plan to arm a civilian militia against Muslim guerrillas, saying this would violate laws giving the national government sole authority to arm military and police units.

The council has already released almost $200,000 to acquire assault rifles.

Mr. Ramos said the council might find itself facing criminal charges and that their plans were only "spreading panic."

Earlier, Mr. Ramos's chief aide, Ruben Torres said they would convince the council not to push through with the plan.

"We have to look into this kind of hysteria and we have to talk to them patiently," he said, adding that criminal charges would be the last option.

Local officials in this predominantly Christian city have been strongly opposed to the interim peace plan between the government and the MNLF under which the Muslims would lead a special council to oversee development projects in vast areas of the south, including Zamboanga.

Christians, who fear the plan will result in Muslim domination, have mounted vigorous protests against it.

The mayor of Zamboanga, Vitaliano Agan, Wednesday ordered police to prevent supporters of the peace plan from staging a rally Thursday, saying they had no permit.

Mr. Agan said he feared the rally might spark a bloody confrontation between supporters and opponents of the plan.

In a separate development, the United Moro National Organization (UMNO), a Muslim group, Wednesday announced it would boycott Mr. Misuari's plan to run as the ruling coalition candidate of a four-province Muslim autonomous region.

Mr. Misuari, who led the MNLF in a 24-year struggle for a separate Muslim state in the south, is running for governor of the autonomous region which will hold elections on Sept. 9 as part of the peace programme.

Salvage crews go to new TWA wreckage trail

NEW YORK (R) — Navy ships and divers explored a newly discovered trail of wreckage Tuesday that could give investigators more clues to why TWA Flight 800 exploded in mid-air without warning on July 17.

A navy spokesman said the search vessel Diane G. was exploring an area several nautical miles west of the two main wreckage fields and closer to John F. Kennedy Airport, where the Paris-bound jetliner took off.

Investigators said they have reached no conclusion on what caused the Boeing 747 to explode in a fireball and plummet into the Atlantic Ocean off Long Island, New York, minutes after take-off, killing all 230 people on board.

Officials have said no evidence of a bomb such as chemical residue from explosives has been found on any of the aircraft parts or bodies pulled up so far. But investigators were working on theories that the plane was sabotaged by a bomb planted on board or a missile attack or that it experienced a catastrophic mechanical failure.

Monday night's discovery of a new field of wreckage closer to Kennedy Airport than any debris found before included large suitcases and pieces of clothing, the New York Times reported.

It quoted some investigators as saying the find had bolstered a theory that an explosion in or near the front cargo hold destroyed the jetliner.

The positioning of wreckage on the ocean floor indicated the cockpit and first-class cabin broke off first, leaving the rest of the aircraft airborne for seconds.

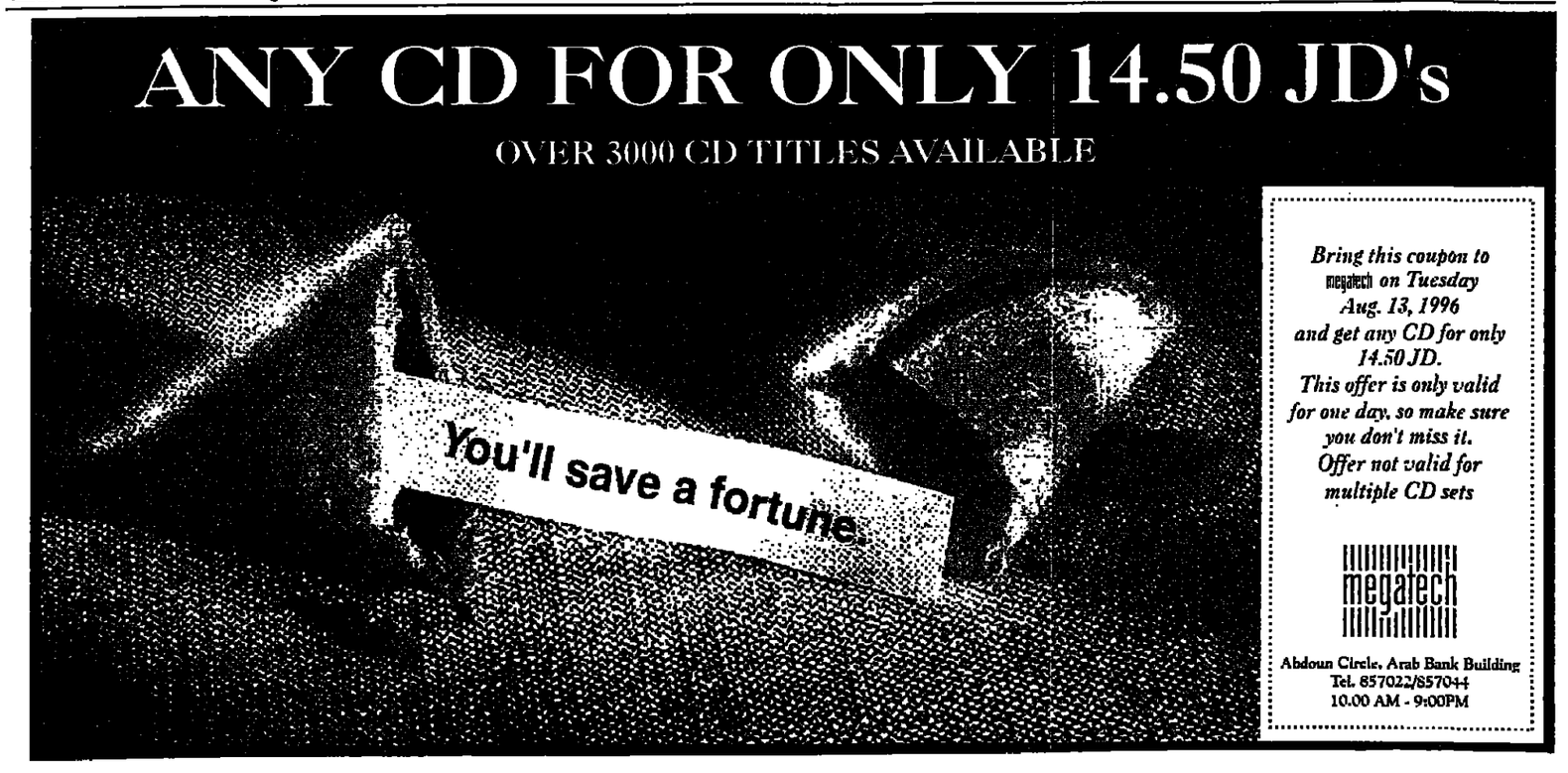
"The Diane G. is operating west of the other search areas," said navy spokesman Lt. Nicholas Balice. "The USS Grasp and USS Grapple continue to work the main fields as before. The weather is cooperating with all operations."



A section of the TWA Flight 800's forward fuselage is transferred from the Navy's salvage and recovery ship USS Grapple to a utility craft for transfer ashore (Reuter photo)

Mangled wreckage of what was once the cockpit, a one-tonne ball of seats, dials, fuses, wires and instruments, was recovered from the ocean floor over the weekend and investigators started to study how to untangle it Monday.

One more body was recovered from the wreckage Monday, bringing the number of those pulled out of the depths to 195, with 35 still unaccounted for. Citizens of the United States, France, Italy, Spain and Norway were on the flight.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

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MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

New chapter in economics

IN WHAT certainly is a long overdue move in the right direction, the Financial Committee of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) has urged the government to abandon the policy of subsidies and to leave the business of importing and selling food items to the private sector. What the Senate panel called for, and the government has repeatedly said it wants to do, is to move towards free enterprise policies with the role of the government restricted to regulating and monitoring economic practices.

This is a very sound call but only if the lifting of the subsidies is to be followed by liberalising what is left of archaic laws that we still have and adopting corrective policies that will remove all obstacles preventing the market forces from developing, while maintaining compassion for helping the poor and the needy in our society. What is conspicuously missing today are anti-trust laws which can shield consumers from all sorts of monopoly and yet open the door for fair competition which in turn ensures fair pricing of goods and services. A free market cannot sustain itself as long as monopolies are allowed to grow and prosper. In Jordan there is a good number of monopolies which is resulting in either the provision of lacking services, as in mobile telephones, or over-pricing, as in telecommunications.

A basic feature of the free market economy is that wages are adjusted to inflation so that people's purchasing power does not erode due to increases in the cost of living. It is a known fact that the rate of inflation over the past few years has been much higher than that of salary increases, leading to a deterioration in the standards of living of most Jordanians. While it is clear that the government must raise the salaries of civil servants in order to help them cope with the higher cost of living, if it is indeed interested in selling the free market economy argument, unions must begin playing their role of ensuring the welfare of their members by initiating the process of collective bargaining with the management of private sector companies.

The free market economy has proven to be the most successful of all economic systems. But market economies have their essential requirements. Applying some of them and leaving the others can only lead to imbalances whose prime victim will be the consumer. The invisible hand of the economy cannot be effective unless it has complete free movement. That it certainly does not have here, which makes it incumbent upon the government to intervene once more on behalf of the people and their economic well-being.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for **Al Ra'i** daily Wednesday expressed the view that Syria ought to accept Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu's offer to withdraw Israeli forces from Lebanon as a first step towards a comprehensive peace. Fahed Al Fanek said that any withdrawal from occupied Arab lands is a major gain that should not be missed, noting that Syria would not risk anything by this move. According to Netanyahu's offer Syria must secure Israel's northern border with Lebanon, disband Hizbollah and allow the South Lebanon Army to be incorporated into the Lebanese army, the writer said. Netanyahu's offer is no different from that made by his predecessor Shimon Peres and is worth study by Damascus, said the writer, who stressed that Lebanon's interests can be safeguarded by this plan. Noting that Syria is already guaranteeing security along its own borders with Israel, the writer said that there is no harm in ensuring similar security along the Israeli-Lebanese borders as well. He said once Israel pulled out from southern Lebanon there will be no excuse for Hizbollah to launch further attacks on Israel.

IN JUSTIFYING Israel's building of Jewish settlement on Arab lands, Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu said that the expansionist move was motivated by the natural growth of the existing settlement resulting from marriages, said a writer for **Al Ra'i**. Mahmoud Rimawi said that the whole world realises that these settlements are being erected on occupied Arab territory and their presence is an extension of this occupation which must end under the terms of the Oslo agreement and as provided by the U.N. Securitry Council resolutions. The whole world realises that the Jewish settlements continue to pose danger to the peace process and continue to prevent peaceful co-existence between Israel and its Arab neighbours, but Netanyahu is justifying them by saying that they mushroomed as a result of natural growth, continued the writer. The world community does not condone any occupation by any country of lands belonging to another and gives the occupied nation the right to resist occupation, said the writer. In the light of this situation and Israel's refusal to pull out from Arab lands, said the writer, there can be no meaning for any peace treaty between Israel and the Arab states.

The View from Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

The Arab, the id and the superego

WHAT WE refer to in our public and private discourse — disappointingly and angrily, and often even pejoratively — as the "Arab of today" (as opposed to the Arab of the good old days, that is) is a phenomenon worth investigating. If there is consensus, among those using the expression, as to the adjective which describes most potently the behaviour of this said individual in his interaction with other people and with the environment at large, it is the word "puzzling."

First of all, what do we mean by the "Arab of today"? Well, essentially all those of us in this part of the world whose words, acts and behaviour do not live up to the expectations, values or ideals of our society. The expression is used in connection with the taxi driver, the vegetable seller, the civil servant, the teacher, the singer, the athlete, the journalist, the doctor, the politician, etc. when their performance, on one occasion or on many, either falls short or deviates from the standards by which we judge people.

What do we mean by "puzzling?" Two things. The first is "we cannot approve," the incident or act being unacceptable to us. The second is "we cannot understand" — i.e. we simply are unable to rationalise to ourselves why this something which we do not approve of happens.

How do you explain, for example, the behaviour of a civil servant who is anything but "civil" and "servant" to those whom he is paid to "serve" and be "civil" too? What is even more puzzling is that this caretaker of public business comes from a culture which not only emphasises politeness (at times exaggeratedly and killingly) but prides itself on being almost unique in the world in its civility. Where else in the world do you spend the first two minutes of a phone call (sometimes five or ten) answering questions about "your health," "well-being," "conditions," "affairs," "news," "life," and about the "health," "well-being," "conditions," "affairs," "news," and "life" of each and every member of your family, from a person you saw the day before and who is calling to ask you to meet him after an hour?

How come when this same polite, sensitive and caring person is sitting behind a desk in a public establishment, he is so miserly in his words and so unfriendly as to deny you a simple hi or hello and to grudge to serve you promptly (or decline to do so politely) and to reply to your thank you? Isn't this somewhat puzzling? How do we explain this stark doubleness or duality in the behaviour of many among us?

One answer is simple: when civil servants know you, they treat you civilly and serve you, and when they don't, they simply don't. But the matter is more problematic than this, and this disturbing phenomenon of duality is more complex and widespread.

Take another example. This summer, I am teaching a course on writing, a subject which our students do not do well in, for a variety of reasons, but mainly because writing requires patience, commitment, discipline, organisation, attention to detail, exercise of logic, and observance of rules and norms. I have decided, in my approach to this "difficult" subject, to limit the students to using a specific set of sentence patterns when they write, the idea being to make life easier for them and get them into the habit of writing precisely and correctly. Accordingly, I have explained to them and drilled them thoroughly into the use of the simple sentence ("He goes to school."), the compound ("He goes to school, and he studies hard." or "He goes to school; he studies hard."), and the complex ("When he goes to school, he studies hard." or "He studies hard when he goes to school."). Every time we meet, I ask them to give me examples of these patterns, both orally and in writing. I also draw their attention to the punctuation marks in the said patterns — the idea here being to kill three birds in one stone: To make the sentence patterns part of their daily discourse, to make them get the structure of sentences right when they write, and to teach them to punctuate well.

After the first week (five classes, that is) the vast majority of students mastered the patterns. I then said to them, these patterns are all you need, to write a book of a thousand and one pages. "Whenever you write, limit yourself to these patterns; do not write any other patterns, for our aim is error-free compositions. Just vary the sentences a little: Begin with a simple sentence, then a compound, then a complex, etc. Write what you know." Simple.

What happens when they write, and so far they have written about ten pieces each? Errors all over, awkward sentence patterns which we have never heard of, and idiosyncratic punctuation rules. Of thirty-five students, only three — five have succeeded in translating what we have agreed upon together; the rest write as if they had not been in the class at all. Notice here that I know for sure that they know the sentence patterns by heart. Why does this happen? Why do the students "refuse" (I cannot think of a better word) to apply what they know?

One can think of numerous examples. How do you explain, for instance, not the recklessness of a teenager motorist (who is out to prove his manhood and draw attention at any expense) but the recklessness of his father or grandfather who is deepdown a nice fellow like you and me but who goes mad when he is behind the wheel? How do you explain the fact that our students condemn cheating vehemently but, when given the slightest chance, they cheat? How do you explain our society's condemnation of lying while condoning it daily? And so on and so forth.

Such questions are not easy to answer. One answer, however, may come from Freud. As we know, Freud distinguishes between three levels of the psyche: The id, the superego, and the ego. The id is defined (roughly) as that part of the self which is "regarded as the reservoir of instinctual drives and the source of psychic energy" and disorder. It is the troubling, chaotic, nasty, and rebellious part of the self. It is, in other words, the beast in man, the Satan, etc. The superego is the exact opposite: It is absolute order, reason, discipline, etc. — the part of the self which clings to ideals and standards of perfection, the angel in man. The ego is that part of the psyche which "mediates between the impulses of the id, the demands of the environment, and the standards of the superego." It is, in other words, that part of the self which attempts to reconcile the id and the superego and create a balance.

What is the point?

Well, one way to understand the Arab culture of today is to view it as a culture which is torn (almost hopelessly and helplessly) between its id and its superego. When the Arab of today spends two minutes on the phone being polite, when he answers questions about the sentence patterns in class perfectly, when he condemns cheating and lying (and means it), he is being the superego. When he, on the other hand, is nasty and uncivil to his fellow countrymen, when he drives maniacally and satanically, when he writes chaotically and miserably, and when he cheats and lies, he is being the id. When our MP delivers heated speeches about this or that issue, he is being the superego; when he is in the street, he is the id. When the preacher thunders jeremiads from the pulpit, he is the superego; when he is off the pulpit, he is an id. When a department head at our public institutions looks into the application of a stranger, he is the superego. When he looks into the application of an acquaintance, he is the id.

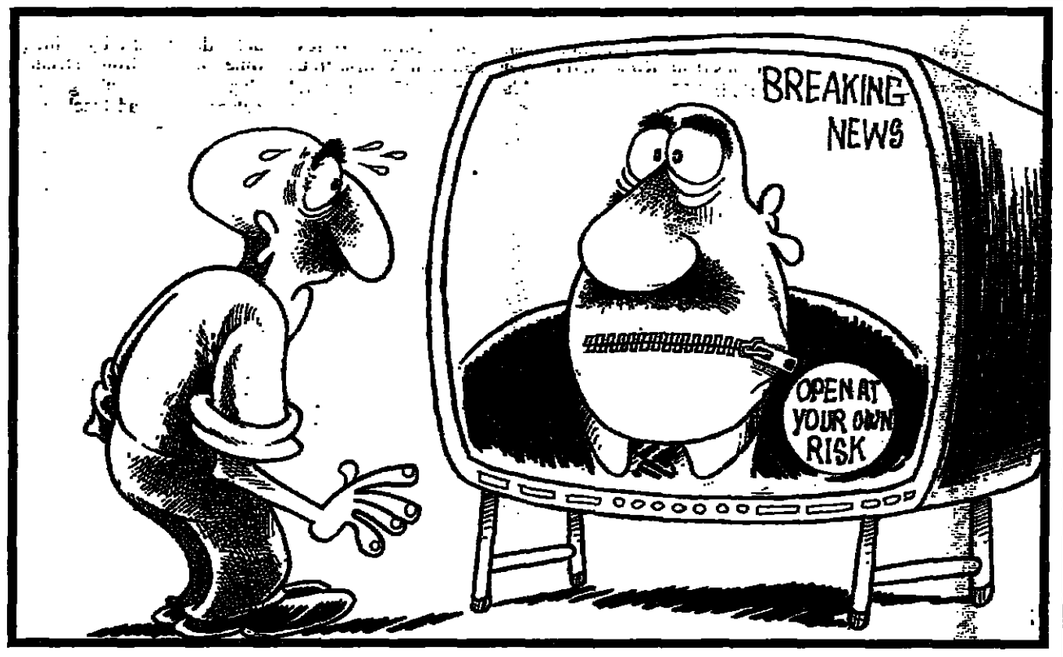
When a new restaurant, grocery store or bank opens, it is the superego; two months later, it is the id. When an institution of ours is established, it is the superego; two years later, it is an id. We see so many ids and superegoes in our society. The ego — the mediating, moderating, negotiating, balancing force — is most often absent.

When an individual from this part of the world is debating an issue with you and gets carried away and becomes somewhat abusive and even violent, and when he fifteen minutes later (or the second day) is so deferent, friendly and reasonable, it is because he is bouncing between the id and the superego.

What we have then is a form of fragmentation of the self. To be either an id or a superego is not acceptable in the least. What is required, obviously, is the activation of the ego. If our family, educational institutions, and society at large have failed to bring us up the way we aspire, it is because they have failed to nourish, develop, and strengthen the ego in us. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the Arab Nation of today is a nation without the ego.

This is a major challenge for us at this point in time. If we want our individual to live up to our expectations, we need to work on the development, perhaps even the creation, of his ego. This is where the battle in education, social change, and overall development has to be fought.

All one can do, at present, is to draw attention to this unhealthy phenomenon and leave it to the experts among us to tell us precisely how we are going to treat this schizophrenic situation. How do we strike the balance? How do we foster the ego?



Stalin's paper, tossed into history's dustbin

By Richard Lourie

SAG HARBOR, L.I. — On July 30, in Moscow, at the age of 84, Pravda, the newspaper of the Communist Party, died of natural causes. Not even a cash transfusion from the two Greek capitalists who took it over in 1992 could keep it alive.

Izvestia, the paper's daily rival, was able to transform itself into a popular newspaper. But Pravda may have been doomed from the day it was started in 1912. Lenin, the Bolsheviks' chief, founded the paper, but it was Stalin, the former poet and future mass murderer, who was its first editor and who gave the paper its voice and personality. Even in the waning days of Communism, Pravda found it hard to turn its back on him.

Aside from aiding and abetting a host of other crimes, Pravda was guilty of mangling Russian, the language of Leo Tolstoy. Its style was a horrendous mishmash of woolly abstractions, clunky syntax, bureaucratic jargon and high-flown tributes to the "toiling masses."

Were people fooled by this befogging? Pravda's readers fell into three camps — those who believed, those who scoured for crumbs of fact and those who simply assumed the opposite of everything the paper printed. If Pravda, which means truth in Russian, said America suffered from homelessness, that meant perhaps one drunk lived on the street in each town. (Some émigrés were surprised when they saw the extent of the problem).

From the paper's beginnings, Stalin worked at blurring the distinction between fact and fiction. He once proposed printing a dummy copy for Lenin, who was writing inconveniently truthful articles. And he used understatement as well as hype. Observing that the constitution allowed any region of the Soviet Union to secede, he wrote, in the Oct. 20, 1920, issue: "Recognition of the right to secede does not mean the recommendation to secede."

In 1930, the year the paper introduced a column for "self-confession and denunciation," it also published a famous article, "Dizzy With Success." In it, Stalin, by then the country's leader, warned those carrying out his policy of eliminating an entire class — the wealthier peasants — about "losing their grip on reality." The comrades read between the lines: if you exterminate too many, there will be no one left to rule.

Pravda began dying at the same time Stalin died, in 1953, although it tried to adjust. When Nikita Khrushchev denounced Stalin in 1956, it wasn't considered news fit to print, but the paper did use a few code words about the Stalin era, referring in articles to that era's "excesses" and "arbitrariness" — euphemisms for the slaughter of millions.

Under Leonid Brezhnev in the 1970's, with Stalin somewhat rehabilitated, the paper marked the 100th anniversary of its first editor's birth, calling him a "very complex and contradictory figure." In other words, bad things could be said, but doing so was, like secession, not recommended.

Pravda suffered enormous stress under Mikhail Gorbachev in the 1980s. Its mandate was the same: say whatever the party ordered. But proclaim "openness?" Actually print that the "mass repressions and lawlessness" of the past were "enormous and unforgivable?" It was done, but the act was, to use a favourite Pravda word, a "contradiction."

After the Soviet Union's Red flag came down from the Kremlin on Dec. 25, 1991, Pravda remained the official organ of the party. But as Boris Yeltsin proclaimed victory this year, a democratically elected president in a free Russia turned out to be simply too much for the paper. Like its first editor, it performed, at long last, its one humane service to the country — dying.

The New York Times

LETTERS

Chaos at Jerash

To the Editor:

AS THE 15th Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts came to a close a few days ago cannot raise the hat in appreciation of the dedicated, tireless effort made by the organisers and the public security forces to ensure the success, safety, and comfort of the thousands attending this annual cultural event.

Having anxiously awaited a certain function in the festival, I accompanied some Jordanian and Arab friends and colleagues and their familiesto the site on August 3. We arrived at the Southern Theatre an hour and 15 minutes before the scheduled start of Najwa Karam's concert, but to our great surprise there was not a single vacant seat left in the theatre.

Faced with this situation we were willing to stand peacefully and listen. But even this was not possible due to the flood of people who were admitted only to add to the chaos in the already packed theatre. Our hope of spending a wonderful night escaping work concerns and daily household chores was thus turned into a nightmare. We, our spouses, and our helpless children were unwillingly pulled into a tug-of-war resulting in tears. Finally, we had no choice but to force our way out, leaving those who could better manage behind.

We cannot let this sort of instance pass unnoticed if we want the Jerash Festival to continue to mirror Jordan's true cultural/historical face.

I therefore suggest the organisers take the following steps in the future:

1) Assign separate days reserved for families. Even if this entails a hike in ticket prices to cover administrative and other costs, it would be the right thing to do.
2) Reserve an area in the Southern Theatre for families.
3) Secure a seat for all ticket holders by controlling the number of ticket sales.

Wishing the Jerash Festival continued success.

Jalal Azzeh,
Amman.

False accusations

To the Editor:

SOON AFTER the TWA Flight 800 exploded in mid-air over long island last month, certain Zionist elements in New York, upon hearing of the disaster, immediately jumped to conclusions. They, then, contacted the media and the White House pretending to be Arabs or Muslims and claimed responsibility for the explosion. These were standard cheap tactics aimed at creating anti-Arab sentiments in North America.

I have great confidence in the U.S. justice system and I believe that any criminal act committed will lead to its just and logical conclusion.

Khalid M. Qanah,
Vancouver,
Canada.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Society on the Move

Business in the leisurely sense

Chargé d' Affaires and Commercial Counsellor at the Embassy of the Republic of Hungary Tibor Toth heads home this summer after nearly five years of running a one-man show. Hungary's ambassador to Jordan is a non-resident envoy with accreditation to Syria where he is resident. Thus Dr. Toth has been captain of the ship here in Amman. He first arrived in November 1990, during what he and many others describe as "a rather turbulent time." Unlike some who skipped town during the Gulf crisis, Dr. Toth bore through the unpredictable. His speciality is international economic relations, having graduated with a masters degree from Budapest University of Economics. As is the standard procedure for Hungarian diplomats, that is, foreign postings of about five years duration, separated by home-office assignments of about two to three years, Dr. Toth's other foreign assignment was to his embassy in Baghdad from 1980 to 1985 as commercial counsellor. There he said he witnessed the peak of trade with Iraq at almost $300 million in exports in 1983 to the Arab republic, before the decline in Iraqi resources. Here in Jordan he has been active in all phases of embassy responsibilities from handling trade and economic relations to overseeing the implementation of cultural agreements between the two countries. Dr. Toth prepared Hungary's participation to the Middle East and North Africa economic summit in Amman with a delegation headed by Dr. Soós Károly Attila, secretary of state of the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Among the private sector delegates were the general manager of Ikarus, a bus-manufacturing company which sold buses to Jordan about 14 years ago, and the general manager of Transelektro, a power generation and distribution firm which is currently bidding, from the Jordanian side, for the Jordan-Syria regional electric power grid project,which, incidently, is said to be moving slowly. Dr. Toth's next move will be to become deputy head of his Ministry of Industry and Trade's department charged with relations with developing countries. With this post, Dr. Toth, says he is certain not to lose touch with the Arab region. The envoy returns to Budapest with his wife, Elizabeth, who was once vice chairman of the Diplomatic Women of Amman Club. The couple have two young adult sons, Gregory and Bence who both lived in Amman earlier and left to pursue their studies in Hungary. Gregory completed his studies and is now working for a promotion and advertising firm; Bence, who graduated from the Amman Baccalaureate School and did one year of undergraduate work in economics at the University of Jordan, is following in his father's footsteps studying at Budapest University of Economics. Dr. Toth will be succeeded by Attila Szanto, a career diplomat whose previous foreign assignment was to Tripoli. He will come from Hungary's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and arrived in Jordan around mid-August. At that time Dr. Toth and Mr. Szanto will be joined by the chargé d'affaires from Damascus for some consultation and perhaps some celebrations of the embassy's 20th year in Amman.

LEISURE-SERIOUS: *In the May issue of MELAND, the monthly newsletter on land and development in the Middle East with a heavy focus on Jordan, publishers Marwan Attala and Riad Khouri applauded the bold risks taken by Jordan's recreational club developers in building clubs in areas once considered "off the beaten path." Well move over Royal Automobile Club and Orthodox Club, groundbreaking ceremonies are soon planned for the mother of all clubs — Dunes Club Amman — adjacent to Ghamadan Park on the Queen Alia International Airport Road. The JD 10 million project is that of the Amman Development and Investment Company (ADI), a Jordanian firm of 41 private and corporate shareholders including HRH Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, Mohammad Abud Hassan, Othman Bdair, Dr. Ramzi Muasher, and Arab International Hotels Company, Iqbal for Development and Investments, Jordan Bank and Sa'ad Abu Jaber and Sons Company. On its exhaustive list of 27 planned facilities are the "largest freeform landscaped swimming pool in Jordan," semi-Olympic indoor pool, restaurant, brasserie and piano bar, eight outdoor floodlit championship tennis courts, three squash courts, aerobic exercise studios, a 420 square metre fitness room and separate ladies fitness room, 2 floodlit volleyball/basketball courts, steam and sauna rooms, a health and beauty clinic, a sports shop and convenience store. There will also be a private car park for 350 vehicles, 50 dunums of landscaped gardens, and three private meeting rooms. And what self-respecting "country club" would be complete without a fully serviced multi-functional ballroom. The owners contracted three firms, Middle East Marketing and Research Company owned by Tony Sabbagh, Tabbaa and Associates, and Club Services International in the U.K. to conduct market studies. All results, says ADI Marketing Director Khaled Tabbaa, were positive and encouraging. The stress, according to Mr. Tabbaa, who is also a member of the club's board of directors, is on a family-oriented multi-sports and social club. While family membership capacity is 2,000, the owners are shooting for a select roster of 1,500 families, expatriates and their guests who, say the owners, "believe that leisure and entertainment are not a luxury but a part of day-to-day life." The facility will be initially operated by 150 staff who will be trained locally and abroad. The owners say they expect to hire female staff as well since the club is family-oriented. The clubs board is chaired by Shaher Tabbaa and vice-chaired by Chafic Tabet, who is also managing director. ADI has contracted Jafar Tukan and Partners for the architectural and engineering design, Fadi Hasbani and Associates of Lebanon for the interior design, Djurovic and Associates for landscape architecture and International Club Services for consulting. A publicity campaign is set to kick off this month. the cost of membership fees is anybody's guess, but we are told rumours of JD 15,000 to 20,000 are wild indeed.*



His Majesty King Hussein and HRH Princess Sarvath Al Hassan at the Guards' Polo Club with the standing and alumni teams of Harrow and Eton academies in the U.K. A discerning eye will find a father and son representation on the Harrow side — HRH Crown Prince Hassan and Prince Rashid. Wins went to the Old Harrovians and the young Etonians

HOW TO ACHIEVE AT BUSINESS: *Business is on the minds of others as well, but this time the focus is on "Women in Business," as is the title of the U.S. embassy's next Worldnet Dialogue session. The one-hour programme scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Monday at the embassy will involve participants in Amman, Muscat and Cairo in an exchange with American government and private sector representatives on the issues that concern businesswomen worldwide. Topics include funding, management, marketing techniques, increasing productivity and training. Participating from Amman will be Fatima Asfour, director of the Jordanian Matches Factory, and Lama Abbasi, director of Zara Dead Sea Products, two successful Jordanian businesswomen. Their questions will be answered by Washington guests Judith Burnett, senior advisor to the U.S. undersecretary for international trade administration at the Department of Commerce, and Antoinette Ford, chief executive officer of Telespan International.*

TOWERING TRUMPETS: *The Amman Citadel is fast becoming a coveted site for the staging of musical events. This Sunday it will be the Armed Forces Symphony in a concert to mark His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne. The event is being held under the patronage of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, and invitations went out from Minister of Tourism Saleh Irsheidat. As the concert starts at 8:00 p.m., a short intermission at the time of 'Isha (the day's last call to prayer) would be in order, so that what befell the gracious German flautist at the European Union's concert at the Amman pinnacle is not the fate of our musically talented officers.*

Jennifer Hamarneh

ETTERS

os at Jerash

accusations

BOOK REVIEW

The 'Wild East'

Ataturk's Children: Turkey and the Kurds by Jonathan Rugman and Roger Hutchings Cassell, London and New York 1996, £27.50/£16.99 (pb)

THIS IS a very brief book, less than 100 pages of text and approximately 60 of Roger Hutchings' fine photographs. But do not be put off. It is a succinct but elegant essay on Turkey's Kurdish dilemma. Rugman raises the curtain of this dirty war with an account of Turkish troops razing one of the 3,000 or so villages now rendered uninhabitable in eastern Turkey. The houses and tobacco crop are burnt, the livestock killed and a few leading male villagers "disappeared". This is shocking but standard fare in the "Wild East". Rugman indicates the impact. Between 1985 and 1990, for example, when the PKK war was still only warming up, the population of Siirt province fell from just over half to just under a quarter of a million people. Since then a deliberate scorched earth policy has been pursued.

In this implacable campaign against "terrorism," Turkey has consciously destroyed the middle ground of non-violent protest and debate. For example, Ozgur Gundem, a legal pro-Kurdish journal, closed in April 1994 after less than two years during which 17 journalists and distributors were assassinated and 336 court cases brought against it. The state kills political opponents — Rugman tells us that over a two-year period, 1992-93, 54 members of the pro-Kurdish Democratic Labour Party (DEP) were killed. Just to ensure there was no one to talk to, the state locked away the leading representatives of Kurdish aspiration who had been elected to parliament. So there is little question of any dialogue with the 23 per cent of the population which is not ethnically Turkish. Far better, state actions imply, to drive up to three million people from their homes than actually talk to them.

Yet Rugman has little time for the PKK either. Its leader, Abdullah Ocalan, takes a Stalinist approach towards dissenters or would-be resigners from PKK ranks, and like the security forces, has few scruples about killing non-combatants. His forces kill Turkish teachers and active pro-government villagers without compunction.

At the end of his essay, Rugman allows his interviewees to reveal their own position. Kani Yilmaz, the PKK European representative currently facing extradition from the U.K., tells us that the PKK killing of teachers is really Turkey's *fault*, "the Turkish state is the real killer for sending teachers", and reminds us "we are a humanitarian movement trying to secure our freedom". If the PKK is into denial, so too is the state. Take the bons mots of President Demirel only two years ago: "There is no Kurdish problem in Turkey, there is terrorism." And what about all those villages that the security forces have razed? "State security forces do not burn Turkish villages.... If there is a fight between the security forces and the criminals, and if something happens to the house, I don't think you can say that village was burned by the security forces. That place is no longer a village; it is a place where criminals are located." Try telling that kind of logic to almost three million homeless people.

I have only one minor problem with this otherwise good book. The title only refers comfortably to those Turkish citizens who support the state. The Kurds — the theme of this book — are surely Ataturk's disinherited orphans. "Crossfire", the original title, seems a good deal more apt. But this is a minor quibble in a book which is probably the best instant briefing on the Kurdish question in Turkey currently available — Middle East International.

David McDowall

Sweden's royal palace faces genteel colour row

By Trevor Datson
Reuter

STOCKHOLM — Crowning a cobbled rise at the heart of Stockholm's medieval old town is the austere dark-brown focus of a debate stirring Sweden.

Should the royal palace be *painted bright yellow*?

A government minister thinks so, and the county governor agrees. But the man who makes the decision, palace architect Ove Hidemark, does not.

The facade of King Carl XIV Gustav's town residence is already being restored at a cost of several million crowns, so money is not at the heart of the issue.

The dispute revolves around whether the 18th century palace should be kept its original dour brown, or whether it should be painted striking yellow, the preferred hue of the first royal resident King Adolf Fredrik in 1754.

County governor and former Conservative Party leader Ulf Adelsohn, who disputes whether mud-brown was the intention of the original architect, has entered *the debate.*

"There is every antiquarian and stylistic reason to restore the facade to its original — yellow — shade. This would also give the entire city centre a real boost," he said.

The idea of a yellow palace standing out against the azure Scandinavian sky appeals to many Swedes, matching as it would the colours of the national flag. But palace architect Hidemark believes his predecessor would turn in his grave.

Grafted onto the only surviving wing after the original 13th century fortress was gutted in a disastrous blaze in 1697, the royal palace was the design of Nicodemus Tessin the Younger.

Building work was interrupted between 1710 and 1728 by war, but Tessin *lived long enough to see his* project revived after parliament introduced a special tax to fund the building.

The strict geometrical facade stood in stark contrast to the elegant baroque and French rococo interiors, particularly when the thick exterior plasterwork was painted brown.

But fashions change, and by the time the palace was finally completed in 1754 it had been repainted straw yellow in the fashion set by Louis XIV of France at Versailles.

And yellow it remained until the 1890s, by which time smoke from steamships moored along the palace quay had blackened the porous limestone of its structure.

The architects of the time decreed that the palace should be returned to its *original brown.*

Five generations of Stockholmers have since grown up in the heavy shadow of the massive brown monolith, which could justifiably be described as imposing rather than elegant, and none paid much attention to the colour of the palace.

That is until architectural historian Thomas Hall told Sweden's leading daily Dagens Nyheter it was time for a change.

"The palace should command the Saltsjo (eastern) aspect of Stockholm, but it cannot fulfil this role due to its dry — one is tempted to say bureaucratic — brown colour," Hall said.

Hall said a growing majority of Stockholmers were in favour of a return to the yellow shade.

"The unfortunate thing is that possibly the only expert *who has constantly opposed* a repainting, Professor Ove Hidemark, happens to be palace architect," he said.

Hidemark countered that not only was the present colour more historically authentic, but the cost of chipping away the old brown plaster, replacing it and painting the building yellow would be prohibitive.

Next to enter the ring was County Governor Adelsohn, who said the issue was too important for the palace architect to settle. "The question is of such dignity it should be settled by the government and parliament," he argued.

Labour Market Minister Margareta Winberg also joined the yellow camp, dubbing the scheme "brilliant" and suggesting it as a means of diverting a few dozen painters away from the ranks of the unemployed.

But Hidemark has the final say, and he has his supporters among the palace guard. Stig Hogberg, one of the uniformed guards who patrols the castle's perimeter, said the royal residence was fine just as it is.

"This is the original colour, and they should leave well alone. Besides, even if they did paint it yellow the traffic fumes would colour it brown in next to no time."

Norwegians invent a sailboat that doesn't heel

VESTFOLD, Norway (AFP) — Two Norwegian engineers aim to revolutionise the world of holiday sailing with their newly-created sailboat that doesn't heel, thanks to a moving mast and a counterweight in the hull.

The unique sailboat remains upright while the mast moves with the wind, making for a more comfortable sailing experience.

"This boat is made for families and people on tour for many days, or anyone who wants comfort while sailing," inventor Carl Oscar Oehrn told AFP.

A lecturer at the Vestfold Technical University, Oehrn has been developing the "Sailmatic" system in his spare time for the past 10 years with his colleague, fellow engineer Jan Christensen.

"We got the idea from magazines and regular people, who are always trying to make sailboats more comfortable, with roomier interiors and chairs nailed to the floor," he said.

According to Oehrn, many recreational sailors get uneasy when the boat heels — the nautical term for the way a sailboat leans with the wind as it moves along.

But the Sailmatic ensures that the ship doesn't heel — instead the mast hinged to the deck that can move 35 degrees and a 2.5 tonne counterweight in the hull of the ship, moved by cables connected to the mast, steady the ship.

"When the mast is at 35 degrees, the counterweight is on the far side of the hull, so when the wind comes into the sails, the mast compensates and it moves according to the wind force," Oehrn explained.

"This way the hull is always upright, giving for a much more comfortable ride," he said, noting that the entire system is mechanical.

It is also possible to lock the counterweight into position in the centre of the hull and sail it as a conventional sailboat.

The Norwegian boat is easy to manoeuvre and almost impossible to tip, according to the inventors, who have patented the concept.

The boat is also easy to manufacture, selling for about 50,000 kroner ($8,000) more than a conventional sailboat, thus ranging between 500,000 and 1.5 million kroner (between $80,000 and $238,000).

Although the Norwegians have not received any orders yet, they are optimistic that the idea will be popular once people "catch wind" of the idea.

The 38-foot prototype looks like a regular sailboat, except for the back of the boat which is broader, like that of a cruiser, to create more space.

"The rear of the hull on a regular sailboat must be narrow for heeling, but we can make a boat more comfortable this way," Oehrn said.

But the sailmatic has its critics.

Swedish boat constructor and America's cup competitor Pelle Pettersson argues that the system takes the sport out of sailing.

"Small boats are often bought so that they will heel, that's the whole charm of sailing. Just the idea of a boat that doesn't heel is not so appealing," he said, adding that in the end "the moving parts make for a less stable boat."

Others have argued that the system may work well under normal conditions, but could react unpredictably in tough weather conditions.

For jitters at the altar, how about wedding insurance?

By Daniel Woolls
Agence France Ptresse

PARIS — Thanks to a French insurance company, brides and bridegrooms with last-minute cold feet no longer face financial disaster from a cancelled wedding.

For a small premium, they can take out a policy protecting them from love gone awry or just about anything else that threatens to rain on their big day.

Despite France's economic woes, the amount of money spent on weddings in this country is rising five to 10 per cent a year, according to estimates from the catering and retail industries. And people in the Paris *region now dish out an average of 60,000* francs, or $12,000, on tying the knot.

But alas life is unpredictable and non-refundable, so French insurers have stepped in to ease the risk, finding their own little niche in the business of love.

They join colleagues in Britain, where insurers say wedding cancellation policies *have been around for about a decade and that* about five per cent of insured weddings there never make it to the altar. Indeed, better safe than sorry.

"Obviously there are some who are superstitious, but in general people like the idea," said Jacqueline Loeb, head of a Parisian insurance company that does weddings.

In the past six weeks, with the marrying season in full bloom, she has sold 15 policies at a premium of about three per cent of the amount a client wants to be insured for.

These careful customers, she said, have included a man who was worried his fiancee would have an allergy attack on her wedding day and a woman whose future mother-in-law was gravely ill.

The policy covers those and other nuptial impediments: An accident that forces a cancellation of a wedding, an unexpected change of venue for the reception, damage caused at it, and even honeymoons that don't happen.

As for the ultimate deal-breaker, cold feet, they are also insured but only to a degree — up until eight days before the ceremony.

British insurers, however, say they wouldn't touch that clause with a stick. Steve Warner, sales director of Insurex Expo-Sure Ltd. in London, says the six policies he sells each week in the wedding season protect against things like damaged wedding dresses, illness and death, but not changes of heart.

"Disinclination to marry is not covered," he *said, using an industry euphemism.*

Ms. Loeb, who says hers is the only French agency offering wedding policies, said that in France it all began last December when a public-sector strike over austerity measures left Paris and much of the country without public transport and virtually paralysed.

A chateau outside Paris that hosts wedding *receptions and conventions was taking a beating* from last-minute cancellations, and approached Ms. Loeb to see if there wasn't some way to protect itself from such no-shows.

She obliged, then started advertising with caterers and wedding departments in large department stores, and the idea has taken off nicely. "We respond to a need," she said.

She told of one case in Paris that went right down to the wire. It was a civil ceremony in which a Catholic man was marrying a Jewish woman, and when the justice of the peace asked if anyone objected to their union, someone did.

The bridegroom's uncle spoke up, it got really ugly really fast and the wedding was cancelled. With no reimbursement.

"It ended up in a fist-fight," Ms. Loeb said. "It was a real pity."

The bare minimum

By Jean-Claude Elias



FOR EACH piece of software released by the IT (information technology) industry, a list of the minimum characteristics required to use the programme is usually given by the publisher. They include the type of the PC processor (386, 486, Pentium), the size of the memory, the available disk space, the type of monitor and others.

In most cases, these minimum requirements are correct — i.e. if your computer complies with them, the mentioned piece of software will work. Although cases were reported where the minimum spacs have proven to be insufficient, they remain isolated accidents that do not affect the credibility of software publishers whoever they may be. Overall one can trust what is written on the outer packing of a programme as much as one can trust the expiration date of medicine — barring errors or omissions, it works.

The hidden truth is not in whether software "will or will not work." It is in "how well will it work" rather. Given the incredible speed at which PCs are becoming outdated and out of specifications, the understandable attitude of the software vendor is to tell you "oh now, you do not have to buy another computer to use this programme."

How much processing power, memory or disk space one needs to efficiently use software often is given by independent parties like specialised magazines, computer consultants or people who have tested the said programme. The bare minimum to run software would normally let it work very slowly causing more frustration than satisfaction.

Some software vendors who care about their image are now providing users with two lists: One for the minimum requirements and another, called recommended, for improved performance. Simply put this is more honest. For if professionals will one way or another find what are best hardware characteristics for a given programme, a layman needs more guidance. The ideal source to find this guidance obviously is at the publisher.

It is said that Windows 95 needs 8 MB (eight million bytes — characters) of memory to work. Experience however shows that 16 MB is highly recommended and advanced users won't accept anything less than 32 MB for the same system. In this example, the minimum memory requirement is therefore a quarter of the ideal situation and half of the recommended one. As far as processing power is concerned a 486 PC will allow you to operate Windows 95 at a "very quiet, no-rush" pace. You will need a Pentium however to really see it fly and feel its real power.

Those who do not wish to waste time evaluating the minimum requirements for each piece of software separately may want to consider the two following hardware configurations — A: Pentium 100, 16 MB memory and 1 GB hard disk, B: Pentium 133, 32 MB memory and 2 GB hard disk. A quality super VGA colour monitor is needed in any case and has now become a must for any configuration.

Choosing set "A" will make virtually all current software work correctly, without problems. Set "B" will let it work even better and faster, keeping some room at the top for future applications.

To go to Aqaba, you can drive your car or you can pretend you are Miguel Indurain and ride a bicycle. The choice is yours.

JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, August 8, 1996

3:00	Holy Koran
3:05	Double Dragon
3:30	The New 3 Stooges
3:35	N.B.A. Basketball
4:30	Take Your Pick
5:00	French Programme
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Carol & Company
8:00	Taratata (Songs & Music)
9:10	Star Trek — The Next Generation
10:00	News In English
10:25	Feature Film — Minding Mary March Starring: Rick Boland & Tara Manuel

Friday, August 9, 1996

3:00	Holy Koran
3:05	Dumb & Dumber
3:30	Bush School
3:40	Name Your Adventure
4:10	Crystal Maze
5:00	French Programme
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	U.N. Programmes (Documentary)
8:00	Nasty Boys
8:45	Secret Weapons
9:10	The Wanderer
10:00	News In English
10:15	Feature Film — Joe Kid Starring: Clint Eastwood & John Saxon

Saturday, August 10, 1996

3:00	Holy Koran
3:05	Moomin
3:30	Pumpkin Patch
3:45	Blue Heelers
4:30	Big Brother Jake
5:00	French Programme — Sciences Cartoon
5:15	Children Programme — La Vie Devant Moi
5:30	Game Show — Pyramide
6:00	Serie — Chateau Vallon
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Faut Pas Rever
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	The Torkelsons
8:00	The Album Show
8:45	Miami Vice
9:10	Prism
10:00	News In English
10:25	The Bold And The Beautiful
11:15	Feature Film — Not Our Son Starring: Neil Harris and Cindy Becket

Sunday, August 11, 1996

3:00	Holy Koran
3:05	The Mask
3:30	Bush School
3:45	Mac & Matley
4:00	Italian Soccer
5:00	French Programme — Sciences Cartoon
5:15	Children Programme — La Vie Devant Moi
5:30	Game Show — Pyramide
6:00	Magazine — La Marche Du Siecle/Part One
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Sports Et Musique
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Cinema Cinema Cinema
8:00	American Chart Show
8:45	Special Documentary On The Occasion Of His Majesty's Accession To The Throne
9:10	Black's Magic
10:00	News In English
10:25	Frenchie
11:10	The Boston Pops Orchestra

Monday, August 12, 1996

3:00	Holy Koran
3:05	Adventure On The Rainbow Pond
3:30	Richie Rich
4:00	Playabout
4:10	Gillette World Sport
4:25	Hey Dad
5:00	*French Programme — Sciences Cartoon*
5:15	Children Programme — La Vie Devant Moi
5:30	Game Show — Pyramide
6:00	Magazine — La Marche Du Siecle/Part Two
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Science — Cinq Sur Cinq
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	The Hypnotic World Of Paul McKenna
8:00	Milner Fenwitck
8:15	Matlock
9:10	Red Arrows Over America
10:00	News In English
10:25	The Bold And The Beautiful
11:10	Mancuso (FBI)

Tuesday, August 13, 1996

3:00	Holy Koran
3:05	Iris — The Happy Professor
3:20	Captain Planet
3:45	Hot Shots (Sports)
4:10	Bob Morrison Show
4:30	Alf (Comedy)
5:00	French Programmes — Sciences Cartoon
5:15	Document — La Vie Devant Moi
5:30	Game Show — Pyramide
6:00	Varieties — Reinette L'Oranaise
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	*Magazine — Ushuaia*
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Blossom
8:00	Documentary
8:30	Encounter
8:45	Varieties
9:10	Star Trek — The Next Generation
10:00	*News In English*
10:20	Human Target
11:15	Hawaii 5-0
11:45	My Two Wives

Wednesday, August 14, 1996

3:00	Holy Koran
3:05	Iris — The Happy Professor
3:20	Flintstones
3:45	The New Three Stooges
3:50	The Adventures
4:10	Kelly
4:30	The Earth Revealed (Documentary)
5:00	Document — La France Aux 1000 Villages
5:30	Varieties — L'Invite De Marque
6:00	Document — Roule Routier
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Sport Et Musique
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Evening Shade
8:00	Super Stars Of Action
8:30	Chancer
9:10	Hunter
10:00	News In English
10:25	The Bold And The Beautiful
11:10	Bugs

More of the same

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen



TIME AFTER time, the culture shock upon returning to this country from a brief spell overseas is greater and greater.

This is not because we have changed or the country itself has changed, but simply because we come back with the perspective of the uninhibited European. Uninhibited in the sense of not paying much attention to what society thinks of a person or how a society judges a person because in more developed societies hardly anyone pays much attention to, nor indulges in, social gossip. A favourite pastime here in Jordan.

Moreover, we are a people that does not like to have fun, to enjoy ourselves, or to do things that can be called adventurous. We stand still as others bombard us with decisions wanting to change our lives, and not necessarily for the better, but simply because that is how it should be.

And no amount of statistics juggling can make such decisions more humane, dear Mr. economist, or expert, or whatever you may wish to be called. The controversy over subsidies comes to mind here.

We are also good at cheating ourselves. Or maybe we are so gullible that we have come to believe our own lies.

A team brings back medals from Europe and convinces everyone, even the team members themselves, that they had won these medals fair and square in one international competition rather than in a crummy local tournament.

Our athletes in Atlanta commit one blunder after another because the team of experts, sorry... the panel of experts and trainers accompanying the team, even outnumbering the athletes, are too busy playing tourists in the United States to worry about the athletes' welfare.

Overall, the best idea to have been uttered this week has been that we should stop sending our athletes abroad until we have come to fortify the sports base here at home. That is to say until so much money has been spent on giving our athletes the support and backup that they deserve.

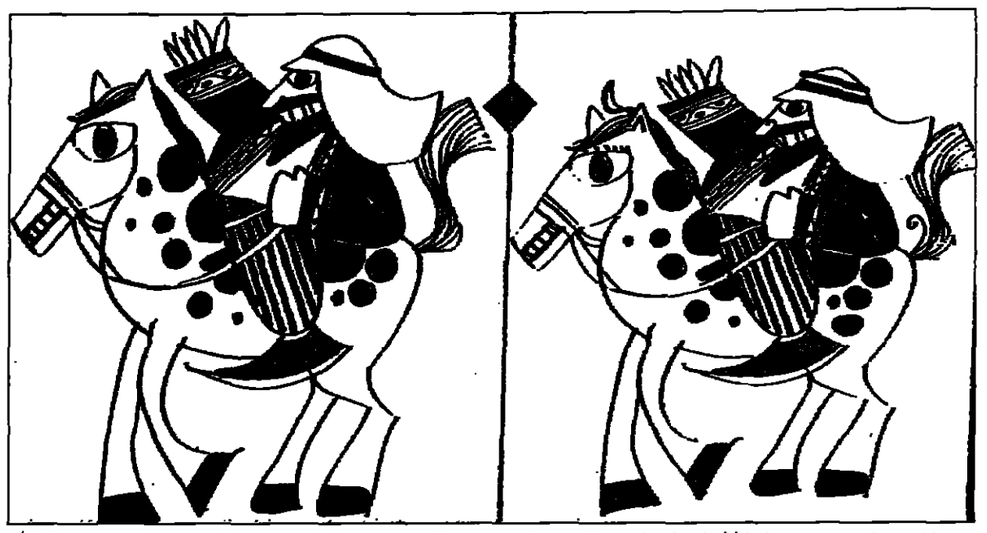
But this idea, like so many, has been floated before with the result of it falling on deaf ears.

One thing is for certain, we never listen, or at least, not until it is too late to step back from the rim.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



THERE are ten differences between both pictures illustrated above. Can you detect them?

* * * *

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

** I'd like steak and lots of potatoes.
Oreed shara'eh lahm wa-kathiran minal batatis.

** I don't want any soup.
La oreed ayya hasaa.

** Your kebab is so delicious.
Al-kabab indakom latheeth jiddan.

** My wife likes grilled fish and some rice.
Zawjati toreed samak mashwi wa-ba'dan minar-roz.

** I didn't like the meat last week. It was tasteless.
Lam ohib al-lahm al-osboo al-madi. Lam yakon lahu ta'm.

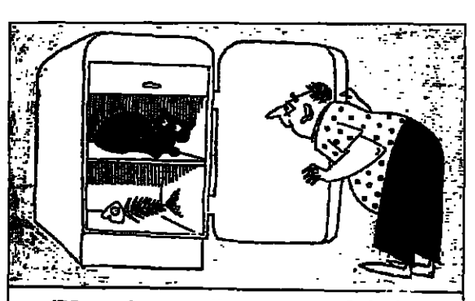
** I prefer mango juice to refreshments.
Ofaddel asir al-manga anil-murattibat.

** Please, we'd like to pay now.
Min fadlik, noreed an nadfa'a al-fatoora al-aan.

** Here's your bill. Fifteen dinars only.
Tafaddal, hathehi fatooratokom. Khamsatu ashra dinar faqat.

* * * *

JOKES



"How strange, there was a fish in the refrigerator. I wanted to have it for supper."

* * *

* **TEACHER:** "Jimmy. "Why don't you wash your face?" I can see what you had for breakfast this morning."
JIMMY: "What was it?"
TEACHER: "Eggs!"
JIMMY: "Wrong.That was yesterday."

* * * *

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

(1) Distinguish between the following drinks: - curaçao, benedictine,tokay, cognac, maraschine.

(2) Tasty means "having a flavour." What does "testy" mean?

(3) Incriminate is a verb derived from the word crime. Can you give the verbs of these words: - bold, gas, fury, sublime?

(4) From what part of the animal do the following joints or cuts come from? - sirloin, cutlet, gammon, steak, brisket?

* * * *

HOWLERS

* SHE came to the big city as just a slip of a girl, and she's been slipping ever since.

* A FELLOW made improper advances to her in the plane, and she didn't say "Stop or I'll chute!"

* A CHAP told her he was bringing her to Maw, but he brought her home to paw.

* SHE could speak five languages but couldn't say "NO" in anyone of them.

* A FELLOW said, "I look into your eyes, and I want to teach them the language of love."
He found them very willing pupils.

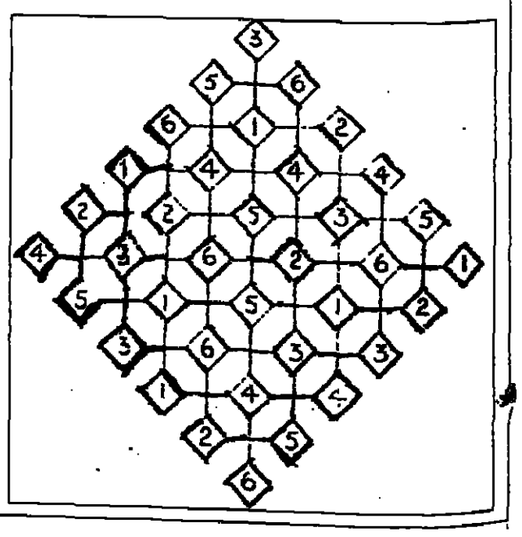
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PUZZLES

'PICKING UP DIAMONDS'

THE NUMBER in each of the diamonds represents that number of diamonds. You are allowed to pick up as many diamonds as you like, provided that no two groups of them are in the same line.

What is the highest number of diamonds you can pick up?



ursday, August 8, 1

same

cord

SIDE

HOWLERS

PICKING UP DIAGNOSES

Arts & Culture

RENDEZVOUS WITH ART

Stimulating youngsters' artistic, historical sensibilities at Jerash

By Mahmoud I. Mufti

"GREAT EVENTS are the poetry of fate ... Those who lived through events cannot see them in perspective. Those who explain them cannot share their experience. All we can do is try to ... grapple with some of the living essence of history, of time, of the things men did and felt and wanted ...," comments present-day historian, Eugen Weber.

The myriad events that produced and shaped the history of the ancient Graeco-Roman outpost city of Gerasa — present-day Jerash — continue to captivate people today; archaeologists, historians and casual visitors. None, however, are as intrigued as the festival-goers [The current Annual International Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts]. For it is only through the experience of witnessing human creativity first-hand, through music, dance, drama, poetry and artisanship, that the sense of fusion between ancient past and present is imparted.

But since we cannot, as Mr. Weber contends, share the experience of the long-gone people who lived through those times, all we can do is to attempt to recapture "some of the living essence of history, of time, of the things men did and felt and wanted." In this context, youngsters (children and teenagers) were observed to be, for the most part, the most original conjectural thinkers among all the festival-goers.

Lamia, a teenager from Irbid, who had carried out some research of her own before coming to the festival, revealed her fascination with the fact that even though the city of Gerasa was built to very high standards of defensibility, it nevertheless resonated with the philosophy that its inhabitants also "enjoy their lives." She expounded that, much like other ancient regional cities such as Paltry and Bostra, Gerasa was provided with sturdy fortification-walls in the early 70s AD, designed to ward off invasions, such as those of the Parthians and others.

However, she added, that that did not mean that the city's inhabitants lived in perpetual fear; they built a hippodrome *capable of seating 15,000 spectators* for horse and chariot-races, two amphitheatres for plays and other creative entertainment, and even a special quad for poetry recitals, public debate, literary colloquiums, as well as public hot and cold water baths for relaxation and health.

Rami, an eleven-year-old student from Amman, was particularly impressed with the dual purpose of the "carved stone slabs" stacked atop the consecutively-running columns in the Oval Piazza and the 600-metre Street of Columns (or Cardo). These slabs, many of which were ornately carved in the Ionic and Corinthian styles, served as aqueducts for the entire city.

Bilal, a teenager from Amman, knew of the acoustics point in the semicircular lower forum of the South Theatre, where any speaker standing at that precise point could be heard by every single spectator in the theatre and would even hear the echo of his own voice there, as the sound waves emanating from him would ricochet off the steep graduations of the auditorium and return to the source. Were it not for Majida Al-Roumi's occupation of the theatre for a performance that same evening, Bilal appeared very eager to demonstrate his point by downright trial.

Not all youngsters whose opinions were sought were as well-read about aspects of Gerasian history and architecture as were Lamia, Rami and Bilal. In fact, most of them uttered some variant of the usual theme: "I love this old city that the Romans built 'thousands' of years ago." This often recurring romanticised statement is nevertheless vaguely accurate historically, since about 2200 years have elapsed since the founding of Gerasa in the 2nd century BC.

However, those three youngsters (among one or two others) actually had sufficient interest to read up and inquire about the festival city of Jerash. Others, while savouring the events and atmosphere just as much, were, however, markedly less scientific about the reasons for their fascination with, and enjoyment of the site and the ongoings.

Among those, who knew very little about Jerash but found themselves increasingly stimulated in the course of the mini-interviews, most were very eager to inquire about the historical circumstances and especially, the Graeco-Roman culture that contributed to the founding of the ancient city. In turn, one found oneself scrambling for vague adolescent recollections of the history of Jerash, and quite unexpectedly therefore, found oneself surrounded by no less than ten youngsters, not to mention their accompanying parents and friends, firing a barrage of questions about the causes of the city's meteoric rise. Correction: Questions about the "exact" causes of the rise. Predictably, the situation was anything but enviable, and they had to settle for an incoherent, irrelevant, but vaguely intelligent-sounding, on-the-spot makeshift reply along the lines of: "History is invariably cyclical, and every civilisation has a finite life-span, no matter how long and splendourously it might endure." Advance research on this would have been a life-saver!

Hoping that some of those children might be reading this column now — or are at least having it read to them by their parents — it is hoped that some belated justice might yet be done, as to their inquiries. Briefly therefore, this is how Jerash came to rise as the major city of the Decapolis (a dynamic group of 10 cities in the region, bound by political, commercial and cultural interests).

Though current archaeological findings lend credence to the belief that Jerash was founded sometime during the 2nd century BC — and not one century earlier by Alexander the Great, according to popular myth — the site of the city was inhabited by various human communities long before, commencing in the Neolithic period (c. 8500-4500 BC). This was an era characterised by widespread sessile agriculture, large farming communities, and starting in around 5500 BC, rudimentary utilitarian pottery.

The periods between Neolithic times and the most relevant period, the Hellenistic one (332-63 BC) represent graduations in the sophistication of human communities in the general geographic area that later became Jordan: The Chalcolithic period (c. 4500-3200 BC), the Early Bronze Age (c. 3200-1950 BC), the Middle Bronze Age (c. 1950-1550 BC), the Late Bronze Age (c. 1200-539) and the "Age of Kingdoms" (i.e. the Iron Age of c. 1200-539 BC). The latter witnessed the establishment of the Kingdoms of Edom, Moab and Ammon during the Assyrian and Babylonian dynasties, as well as Jewish Kingdoms under Saul, David and Solomon.

Persian governorship hallmarked the period after that, starting from the fall of Babylon to the Persian ruler Cyrus in 539, till the conquest of the Persian capital itself (Persepolis) by Alexander the Great, 207 years later, in 330 BC. This was the start of the Hellenistic Empire period in Jordan, taking us back to the aforementioned mythical (though historically inaccurate) date of the founding of Jerash.

The reason why Gerasa (Jerash) came to be termed as "Graeco-Roman" instead of just Roman, is because it was the Greeks — before the Romans — who founded the city and hurtled the area to initial prominence. It was not till 63 BC that the city fell to the Romans, with the thundering conquest of Emperor Pompey. The city's character, artistic architectural features and culture are thus owed to this bi-cultural blend: one that is often commented on by historians, archaeologists and art historians:

"... Art remained more or less unchanged while the Romans conquered the world and founded their own empire on the ruins of the Hellenistic kingdoms. Most artists who worked in Rome were Greeks, and most Roman collectors bought works of the great Greek masters, or copies of them. Nevertheless, art did change, to some extent, when Rome became the mistress of the world. The artists were given new tasks and had to adapt their methods accordingly ... [though] it was typical of the Romans to take from Greek architecture what they liked, and to apply it to their own needs. They did the same in all fields." (E. H. Gombrich in "The Story of Art").

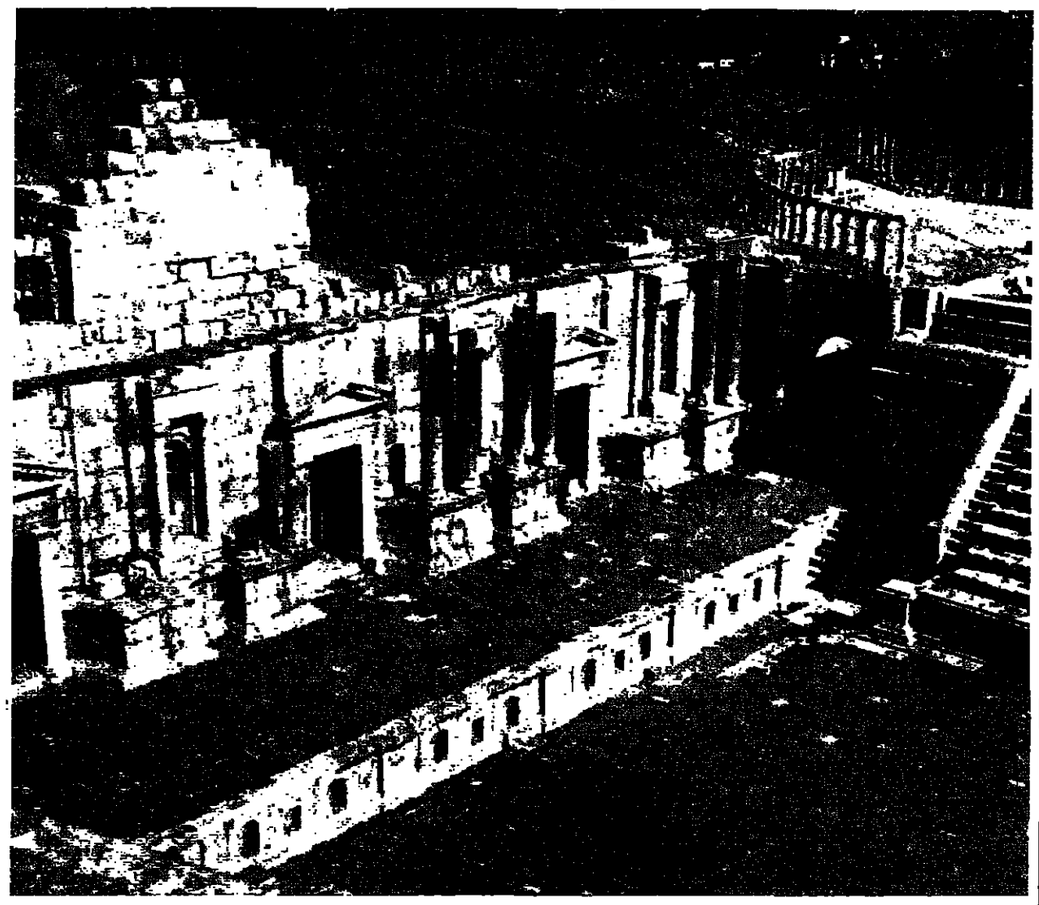
It would be easy to take the above account to insinuate that the Romans were concerned with little other than mimicry. If 'art' was not their forte, perhaps other aspects were: "The most outstanding achievement of the Romans," expounds Gombrich, "was probably in civil engineering. We all know about their roads, their aqueducts, their public baths. Even the ruins of these buildings still look extremely impressive. One feels like an ant when walking in Rome between their enormous pillars. It was, in fact, these ruins that made it impossible for later centuries to forget 'the grandeur that was Rome.'"

A historical approach to this cultural matrix remarks that "To the eternal credit of the Romans — those practical road and empire builders — they both perceived their cultural indebtedness to the Greeks and acknowledged it ... [As for the Greeks], their art is a reasoned approach to truth and beauty, perhaps better described as 'fineness', which they prized above all else ..." (The "Development of Civilization").

Another historical commentary, "A History of the Human Community" illuminates some impacts of the Graeco-Roman culture: "The classical civilisation of ancient Greece and Rome attained an enormous success between 500 BC and AD 200 ... The whole Middle Eastern region felt the impact of their culture after Alexander's conquests [i.e. Alexander the Great] ... [and] what was essence of this Graeco-Roman classical civilisation? ... Political liberty, naturalistic art and rationalistic thought; these perhaps made up the essence of classical civilisation ... Classical art and thought, too, had their own distinctive characteristics. Sculptors made their works resemble real human beings ... The ancient Greeks and Romans are a pivotal part of our past; and like all human beings everywhere, we are to some degree prisoners of our past."



The grandeur that was once Rome at Gerasa: A conjectural reconstruction of the stage area of the South Theatre (C. 200 A.D.) — By Iain Browning



The stage area of the South Theatre today — Jerash

The Greeks renamed the city Gerasa instead of Antiochia, its old name under the ousted Persian rule. (Paradoxically, each of the cities of Gerasa, Gadara and Abila had the additional name of **Antiochia** in pre-Hellenistic times). Historians are not entirely agreed as to the criteria governing the notion of "founding" or "establishing" a city in those days (of the Hellenistic Empire).

In terms of physical construction, Gerasa is believed to predate the Hellenistic Period (332-63 BC) and is speculated to have been built in the Persian period, or earlier still. However, the city is described as having been "founded" in the Hellenistic period by virtue of its promotion from its status of a relatively unimportant residential city to the status of "Polis."

As Iain Browning explains in his book, Jerash And The Decapolis, regarding the promotion of cities in this manner, "the settlements were usually in commanding positions and, although they might well have had the appearance of an armed camp, they soon developed into small urban communities. This would have been an appropriate moment to confer some privilege of status, an action which was, in some cases, tantamount to 'founding' the city ... The sites of Gadara (Um Qeis), Hippos (Qal'at Husn), Gerasa (Jerash), Abila (Tel Abil, otherwise called Quweilbeh), Dium (site not yet identified) and Capitolias (Beit Ras) are all pre-Hellenistic sites which may date from the Persian period, or even earlier. However, they all became Hellenistic settlements which grew into urban communities and eventually into "poleis".

Therefore, for most practical historical purposes — and not to be confused with archaeological accuracy — it is with Hellenistic times that the origins and founding of Gerasa are most commonly associated.

But now (as of Saturday, Aug.3), as the choruses and crescendos of the festival's activities have died down, and only the echoes remain, Jerash will once again — save for visits by individual and package tourists — pale in people's memories and revert to being a ghost city till next year's festival. Perhaps though, in the meantime, the ghosts of its legionnaries will continue marching down its colonnaded streets and perhaps those of its speed-crazed charioteers will continue hurtling round the Hippodrome. For the rest of us however, a full year must elapse before we hear Zaghloul Damour, Sabah Fakhri, Najwa Karam or Majida Al Roumi, who left tears in people's eyes — as well as her own — when she sang a song in memoriam the Qana Massacre victims. One would hope that not all 'history' is cyclical.

Vietnam soap offers a quiet message about AIDS

By Robert Templer
Agence France Presse

HANOI — Wherever television antennae poke up from rural shacks or city shops, Vietnamese are found glued to the soap opera exploits of Mexican actresses with big hair whose pouting lips never quite keep up with the dubbing.

The Rich Also Cry and Maria, two long-running dramas that draw huge audiences, could however soon be superseded by the first-ever Vietnamese series, a soap that will speak directly to this country.

"The wind blows through light and dark" will chronicle the lives of families in rural and urban Vietnam as they cope with the strains of the country's rapid economic and social change, according to the show's creators.

Woven through the 30 episodes will be a serious but low-key message — how to avoid infection with HIV, the virus that leads to AIDS.

Two main characters in the series will be infected with the virus, giving the writers the chance to break down stereotypes and encourage compassion for the 350,000 Vietnamese who are projected to be HIV-positive by the end of the century.

"We want to change the idea that AIDS is something that only exists in cities or that it only affects those who associate with foreigners," said Thuy Linh, one of seven writers who worked on the series.

In the soap, a young woman from the countryside is infected along with a married man, the protagonist in an extended middle-class family that provides the core characters for the drama.

Linh, an award-winning author of short stories, said as Vietnam had no social activists or celebrities who had acknowledged being HIV positive, there were no role models to whom people could relate.

Few people with the virus have spoken out, and press coverage of the illness has tended to focus on drug users and prostitutes who are outside the mainstream of Vietnamese life.

"Our message is that even if you lead a simple life you can get AIDS," said Linh. "We're telling people to be faithful, have one wife, one husband, use condoms when you have sex."

But the writers have been careful not to overload the show with social messages. "It's a very normal soap, with love, hate, jealousy, all those things," said a member of the film crew.

"We don't want it to be known as the AIDS show. That would be the quickest way to make people turn off," said Brian Doolan, country director for the aid group Care International, which is funding the series.

"It won't even be mentioned until the fourth or fifth episode, and it only makes up a small part of the plot."

Doolan said the soap-opera format with cliff-hanger endings and fast-paced action should provoke discussion, not just about AIDS but about relationships and family life.

The project is being backed by the French branch of Care, with funding from the European Commission. A budget of around $1 million has paid for research on attitudes towards HIV and technical help for the filmmakers.

An audience of around 15 million people is predicted for the twice-weekly episodes if the show gets a prime-time spot when it goes on the air in November.

For the crew of 30 and the 50 actors working on the soap, it has been a chance to learn new filming and editing techniques never before used in Vietnam.

On location in a rambling colonial mansion by Hanoi's West Lake, director Mac Van Chung said the series had changed the way Vietnamese filmmakers and actors work, as sound was being recorded directly rather than being dubbed on later.

The aim is to give a more realistic, contemporary feel to the drama and to break away from the staid offerings of Vietnam's state broadcaster.

Vietnamese were used to Russian films which had a very slow pace and long scenes, and this had influenced most Vietnamese filmmaking, said Chung.

"Here scenes last less than a minute, and the story develops very quickly. I think Vietnamese are tired of the old style, they want something more exciting."

India's movie moguls smiling again

By Madhu Nainan
Agence France Presse

BOMBAY — India's movie moguls are smiling again as the novelty of satellite and cable television wears off and viewers return to cinema halls.

"People are coming to the movies once more," said R. Mohan, a film producer in Bombay, India's Hollywood. "People are sick and tired of satellite and cable television."

Until four years ago, when Hong Kong-based Star-TV began beaming its signal into India, people in search of entertainment had a choice between the movies or the dreary fare dished up by Doordarshan, the state-run television network.

The lively programming offered by satellite and cable television is blamed for contributing to a three-year recession in the local film industry which is only now showing signs of easing.

J. Sankaran, a film industry analyst, said box office receipts from India's 13,000 movie theatres rose by more than 35 per cent last year over the previous year to an estimated 11 billion rupees ($314 million).

With more than 1,000 films being made each year in a variety of languages, the Indian film industry is the largest in the world.

A total of 160 Hindi-language movies were made last year in Bombay, locally known as "Bollywood" and considered India's film capital.

The southern state of Andhra Pradesh produced an even greater number of films last year — 210 in the regional language Telegu.

Top stars such as leading man Amitabh Bachchan and actress Madhuri Dixit can command a price of between $200,000 and $1 million a picture.

Bombay film producer Mohan said one reason for the increase in the number of viewers is that Indian filmmakers are simply making better movies, technically close to Hollywood productions.

"Moviegoers now want good, clean family-oriented entertainment and technically good films," he said. "They are turning away from the rash of violent films we had recently."

Mohan's latest film "Kala Pani" (Black Waters), about an Indian patriot fighting the British, is said to be one of the costliest movies ever made in India, although its 50-million-rupee ($1.4-million) production budget would hardly keep a Hollywood star in mineral water.

Telegu-language film producer Syed Ayub dates the revival of the Indian film industry to mid-1995 with the release of the Tamil-language film "Roja," which had a serious theme — the Muslim insurgency in Kashmir — along with the usual foot-tapping music and spectacular dance sequences.

"Roja was later made in Hindi also and had a pan-Indian appeal," said Ayub. "The south Indian language films led the revival and there has been no looking back after that."

"Producers have now set a trend of releasing audio cassettes of the music ahead of the film," he added. "Good music now opens up the market, pulls in the initial viewers and contributes a lot to making the film a hit."

Ayub agrees with Mohan that the arrival of foreign television programming has forced Indian filmmakers to improve their production standards since the audience has become used to the technically slick Western fare.

Analysts said only about six per cent of the films made in India each year turn a profit, 10 per cent break even and the rest bomb at the box office.

Industry analyst Sankaran said that is only fair considering the quality of many of the movies made each year.

"The story line is still not very important to most filmmakers, who follow a standard formula and dish out sentimental family dramas which have good winning over evil," he said.

"The reverse is never attempted since no one dares to experiment. The films are male-focused, patriarchial and the women are only decorative pieces who add a touch of colour."

Gene key may cure 100 diseases

By Henry Llewen

U.K. SCIENTISTS have shown that a rare incurable disease, Hurler's syndrome, can be treated experimentally by gene therapy. Although the treatment has only been shown to work in the test-tube, the first human trials are planned this year.

The crucial breakthrough made by the team led by Professor Mike Dexter has been to find a way to insert genes into bone-marrow stem cells, which give rise to every type of red and white blood cell. This could open the way to try to use the same technique to treat more than 100 other diseases, including forms of cancer and AIDS.

Missing gene

Hurler's syndrome is caused by waste products accumulating in the brain and bones, causing progressive mental and physical abnormalities that often lead to early death. The waste products build up because the enzyme that normally breaks them down is missing, due to a defect in the gene for the enzyme.

Today, Hurler's syndrome can only be treated using transplants of bone marrow taken from a close relative whose tissues are so similar to those of the patient that the transplant is not rejected. This treatment has risks and complications and if no suitable donor is available then there is no treatment for Hurler's syndrome at present.

Dr. Leslie Fairbairn is one of the team at the Paterson Institute in the Christie Hospital, Manchester, northwest England, who are developing the treatment. He says, "what we're trying do is to introduce into the patient's own bone marrow the gene that encodes (is the blueprint for) the missing enzyme.

"It's done by removing some bone marrow from the patient, introducing the gene and replacing the bone marrow. The bone-marrow cells that have the added gene will then produce the missing enzyme, which will be taken up by other cells in the body and will break down the accumulating wastes and cure the effects of the enzyme deficiency in those other cells."

The jelly-like bone marrow inside the hollow centres of our large bones is a living factory, constantly producing new red and white blood cells to replace others as they die. The new blood cells are produced by a special class of cells called stem cells, which never stop dividing to produce an endless stream of progeny.

Marrow Cells

The breakthrough achieved by the Paterson Institute team has been to find a way to insert genes reliably into the bone marrow stem cells, which form only a small proportion of the bone marrow. It is done by using a unique cell-culture system which allows the stem cells to grow and divide but keeps them from differentiating so they do not mature and differentiate into blood cells.

This means that genes introduced into the cultured stem cells replaced in the bone marrow will subsequently be found in every class of blood cell.

A virus that naturally carries its own genes into the nucleus of any cell it infects — a so-called retrovirus — is used as the vehicle to get the missing gene for the missing enzyme into the stem cells. The virus is first rendered harmless by genetic engineering.

Good Results

The results of the first tests of the virus used as a vector have been very good, says Dr. Fairbairn. "We looked at the levels of expression, the amount of the enzyme that was being produced, and saw high levels of the enzyme being produced, and this is continuing long term. And when we look in the cells we can see the cells are no longer accumulating the waste product that causes Hurler's syndrome, because it's being broken down by the enzyme as it would be in normal people.

"That's all in the test-tube, but the next step will be a limited clinical trial in young patients. The idea will be to treat their bone marrow in the same way as we've treated bone marrow in laboratory experiments, and then to put the bone marrow back in the patients and look to see if it produces high levels of the enzyme, and if so if they are Maintained over long periods, and if they are effective in treating the condition. That trial is due to start some time this year as soon as we have permission from the regulatory authorities."

Dr. Fairbairn stresses that it is too soon to raise hopes of a cure within a few years. "What works in the test-tube may not work in patients. The technique will certainly need refining and that's what the first trials are for. If all goes well it will take perhaps 10 years to make the treatment widely available to child victims of Hurler's syndrome."

Meanwhile, he explains, the same approach is being developed to other, much more common conditions. "The important thing about this is we see it as a paradigm for treating a very large number of inherited genetic disorders, and this research is developing the technology to transfer gene into bone marrow. Once we've got it working for one gene, the requirements for getting high levels of the gene's product are more or less the same for any gene you want to put in."

Common diseases, such as leukaemias and thalassaemias, which are caused by genetic defects in bone-marrow stem cells, may be treated within a few years using the technique developed at the Paterson Institute. So may many diseases that affect other parts of the body but can be treated by the products of blood cells, like Hurler's syndrome.

More than 100 diseases may eventually be treated in this way, though Professor Dexter and his colleagues emphasise that — as you might expect with any therapy as new and different as gene therapy — there are still problems and possible side effects to sort out before its promise can be realised — LPS feature.

Drug may 'reverse' blood vessel damage

LONDON (R) — A drug normally used to lower blood pressure may also work to reverse damage to blood vessel walls caused by coronary heart disease, researchers reported.

They said Quinapril, an angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor, was able to improve the dilation of the coronary arteries of heart disease patients — meaning blood could flow through them better.

Quinapril is marketed in Britain as Accupro by Parke-Davis Co. Ltd. and as Accupril in the United States by Warner-Lambert Co.

According to the study published in the American Heart Association's journal Circulation, the findings show that ace inhibitors may offer a new direction for treating heart disease.

"These results provide a fresh insight into the development of coronary artery disease, as they demonstrate that doctors can reverse one of the earliest abnormalities through treatment with Quinapril," Dr. Adam Timmins, a cardiologist at London Chest Hospital, said in a statement issued by Parke-Davis.

The study, known as trial on reversing endothelial dysfunction, or TREND, indicated that Quinapril can improve the release of nitric oxide, an important blood chemical that controls the diameter of blood vessels.

Endothelial cells, which line the inner surface of blood vessels, are damaged when plaque builds up inside them. This build-up, known as atherosclerosis, is an important cause of heart disease.

Parke-Davis and Warner-Lambert hope ongoing trials of Quinapril, one of dozens of ace inhibitors on the market, will produce findings that will improve sales.

Another trial underway is looking at expanded ways for the drug to lower blood pressure.

Worldwide sales of Accupril rose 36.6 per cent in 1995 to $312 million.

New TB vaccine could be safer, more effective

By Deborah Zabarenko
Reuter

WASHINGTON — A new tuberculosis vaccine made from "naked" DNA might work better with less risk of infection than the vaccine currently given to millions of children worldwide, researchers have said.

Traditional vaccines, including the one that has been used against tuberculosis for more than 70 years, are often made up of weakened strains of the disease. The traditional tuberculosis vaccine is made from an attenuated form of the disease that infects cows.

But in research chronicled in the current issue of Nature Medicine, scientists made a new vaccine out of one gene taken from the version of tuberculosis that attacks humans.

"Instead of using an organism ... this simply takes just the gene that can code for the protein for tuberculosis," Margaret Liu, of Merck Research Laboratories, said in a telephone interview. The laboratory is part of Merck Co.

The use of just one gene — known as "naked" DNA — instead of the many genes contained in tuberculosis DNA shows signs of being as effective as the earlier cow-based vaccine, Ms. Liu said.

She said some studies had called into question the effectiveness of the current vaccine. Tuberculosis is considered the most widespread and lethal infectious disease affecting humans.

Even with just one gene from the tuberculosis virus, Ms. Liu and other researchers found that vaccinated mice showed immunity to the disease. Trials with humans are a long way off, she said.

Unlike traditional vaccines, which stimulate the human body to produce disease-fighting antibodies, "naked" DNA vaccines are somehow incorporated by the human body's cells and the immune response occurs there.

Another possible advantage to the DNA-based vaccine could be lower risk of infection, Merck researcher Jeffrey Ulmer said, noting that there were rare cases in which the cow-based vaccine caused the disease in humans.

"With the DNA vaccine, because you're not giving the whole organism ... you don't have any chance of having the infection," Mr. Ulmer said by telephone from West Point, Pennsylvania.

Merck is also pursuing DNA-based vaccines for AIDS, hepatitis and influenza. Early clinical trials of the influenza vaccine are now in progress.

U.S. teams find genetic link to multiple sclerosis

By Andrea Orr
Reuter

SAN FRANCISCO — U.S. Researchers said they had found regions in human DNA believed to house genes that cause multiple sclerosis (MS), offering the best evidence to date the neurological disorder can be inherited.

But they stopped short of saying they expected to eventually find a single MS-causing gene. They focused instead on 19 separate regions in human DNA which all appear to contain genes that act in concert with other genes, and with environmental factors, to bring about MS.

The research was conducted by collaborating teams from Massachusetts General Hospital, Duke University, the laboratory of the French Muscular Dystrophy Association and the University of California at San Francisco. The findings are being published in the August issue of Nature Genetics.

The researchers studied the DNA in families in which at least two members had MS.

They mapped the DNA of the members of these families and tracked the segments that were shared in the same form by different family members.

One of the stronger associations identified was with a region on Chromosome 6 of human DNA that controls immune system regulation. That region was consistently found at a higher frequency among people with ms than in the popluation at large, the researchers said.

But they stressed that did not amount to a cause for the disease, since environment also appeared to play a role.

Despite the genetic similarities, they said most children of people afflicted with MS do not contract the disease and that for an unknown reason the disease is more common in temperate climates.

In MS, the immune system mistakenly attacks the insulating sheath that surrounds many nerves in the brain and spinal cord, causing faulty signalling by the nerves.

Symptoms range from blurry vision and fatigue to loss of movement, memory impairment and difficulties with bowel, bladder and sexual function. MS afflicts about one million people worldwide.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

SPORTS QUIZ
By Chuck Deodene

ACROSS

1 Paper measure
5 Smooth-talking
9 African antelope
14 Like deep-pile carpet
19 — boy!
20 Turner
21 — -um (tiny pest)
22 Scoundrel
23 How did the football squad approach any dilemma?
27 Saltwater fish
28 Very shy, to vintners
29 Al fresco
30 Ancient Mexicans
31 Fly high
32 Understush

34 What did the hockey player do by insulting his coach?
41 Golda of Israel
45 "— cheese!"
46 PC input
47 Knob-shaped
48 Got dramatic
50 Filmfarm
53 Flower-to-be
55 Options list
58 Why was the swimmer's debut so memorable?
61 Glum
62 Solar halo
63 Machu Picchu land
64 Missionary
66 Darkens, as lenses

68 Ernie of the PGA
70 Lewis' partner
71 Humbleness
74 Mexican plant
78 Results in
80 Anti-pollution org.
81 Why was the boxer fired from his day job?
86 Composer of "Hail, Britannia"
88 Draft status
89 Portion of pills
90 Superior
91 Magic Johnson, e.g.
93 Of trade: abbr.
95 TV component: abbr.
97 Plodding

98 How did the karate champ curb her smoking?
104 Duckfoot bills
105 Shoddy
106 Nap
111 Auto wreck
115 Kind of verb: abbr.
116 Hymn book
117 Why was the pole-vaulter so paranoid?
121 Addis —, Ethiopia
122 "The — Mutiny"
123 PA port
124 Mediocre
125 Like candle drippings
126 Bow down
127 Digits
128 Early garden

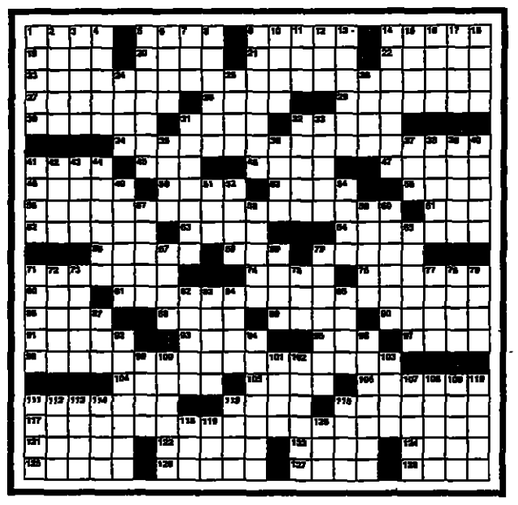
DOWN

1 "Midnight Cowboy" role
2 Merman
3 Mr. T's group
4 Perhaps
5 Spectacles
6 Varnish compounds
7 Pressroom supply
8 Spanish explorer
9 Withstood
10 Senator Trent —
11 Cinders
12 Formerly named
13 Banish an immigrant
14 Dietary necessity
15 Tennis shots
16 Citrus fruit
17 Sought damages
18 Blood component
24 Deathbed heir.
25 Part of O.E.D.

26 Make haste
31 O'Hare porters
32 Arose
33 — fours (crawling)
35 Manuscript encl.
36 Smidgens
37 — de plume
38 That is, to Caesar
39 Waterway
40 Give the slip
41 Not tem. or neut.
42 Reverberation
43 Road to Rome
44 Channel selector
49 Breakfast treat
51 Broadway writer, Burrows
52 Ooze
54 Canaanite god
57 "The Divine Comedy" poet
58 Canyon

59 Astronaut's milieu
60 Journalist Greeley
65 Cuenta
67 Misprint
69 Storage area
70 Image of a kind
71 Repeats
72 Afternoon TV name
73 German "thank you"
75 Nuptial vow
77 Loam
78 Outer: pref.
79 Distort, as statistics
82 Not fulfilled
83 Requirements
84 Ox-drawn vehicle
86 Mint or sage, e.g.
87 Cry of fright

92 "Die Hard" bad guy, Alan
94 Altar area
96 Kleenex
99 Masterstroke
100 Ruble fraction
101 Within: pref.
102 Yellow jacket
103 Chihuahua aunts
107 Beethoven's "Für —"
108 Tollerated
109 Wound up
110 Fire crime
111 Tobacco wad
112 McEntire of music
113 Greek warrior
114 Bit of ice
115 Actress Skye
116 Ballet band
118 Rosenkowski
119 Deadlock
120 — -Magnon



Diagramless, 21x21
By Frances Burton

ACROSS

1 Cincinnati team
6 Roger or Darrel
9 Kind of eclipse
14 City on the Rhine
17 Lucille Ball's husband
18 Assyrian
19 African antelope
20 Spanish gentleman
21 Before Clara or Anita
22 Ingot

21 Unit of force
24 Society girl, for short
25 Make jubilant
27 Castle or Dame
30 Hoopla
31 Monchalance
33 Whine tearfully
34 Crude metal
36 Maneuvers
38 Regret
41 Falls behind

43 Indian garment
44 Fish eggs
45 Houston stadium
48 Get it?
49 Give a new moniker to
50 Level
53 Playwright Hart
54 "A Bell for —"
55 "— evil"
56 Liquid measure: abbr.

57 "Picnic" author
59 Quarrel
60 Skirt style
63 Prepares for publication
66 Second-string
68 Actor Beatty
69 Grant
74 Betel palm
75 Free-for-all
76 Terminates

DOWN

1 Lecherous man
2 Very long time periods
3 Bull
4 Amitrodine
5 1051
7 Snowy season
8 Newsman Rather
9 Est away gradually
10 Not one
11 — Moines
12 Guido's note

13 CA city
16 Wipe lightly
17 Spanish room
18 Clear the tape
20 Busy as a —
22 Dunces
23 Toledo's waterfront
26 Certain pills
28 Always
29 Roman tyrant
30 In addition
31 Wise man

32 Commerce
34 Fathers
37 Patrol
38 — -arts
39 Manipulated
40 Sicilian volcano
42 Captain Hook's sidekick
46 Rajah's wife
47 Tennis's Chris
51 Adam's grandson
52 Right this minute

53 Spite
55 Jewish feast
56 Leg
58 Dancer Kelly
61 Sleepy motion
62 Before
64 Dog tags, for short
69 No longer wild
70 Small bird
71 Retained
72 Decorates a cake
73 Near Guinea port

Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Happy harp player performs great melody before big crowd with no strings attached.
2. It baffles me why anyone would purchase a product because of a celebrity endorsement.
3. Racehorse owner opines his basic reason to breed steed with great speed is greed.
4. That curious revelation: When winter comes, autumn leaves.

CRYPTOGRAMS

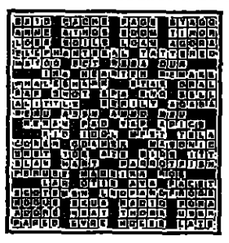
1. TDJCNL EQAT PB CHW KALMDNKDBM ECCYL NZ WAHPEPCNL WPLQ CT ZCKY TCK LAHAEM ENLMCJAK. — By Earl Ireland

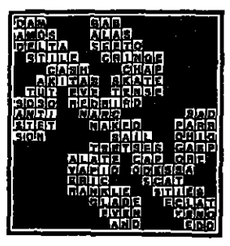
2. WANFFU FT TYWN ELHUUS RHRLW ZYROUS BYERFI HW RLI OLHR. NFUS BRAZLELU! — By Adam Christopher

3. NO IAMBIC DMY U RCV VMYX SYMICTTMY RT TBNSEO GR MEK-DUTABMRCK SCRIBE. — By Ed Huddleson

4. ELF ICTFULS KHIDD TAEHTSTC YUONU RLALK BL OK "NOBOD YIS." — By Frank N. Stein

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE





China to push use abroad of AIDS and cancer-busting traditional medicines

BEIJING (AFP) — China is poised to launch a campaign to promote traditional medicines abroad, especially those which claim to cure cancer, AIDS and cardiovascular diseases, the China Daily said Monday.

Under the scheme, dubbed the Hongyang Project, the state hopes to double exports of Chinese medicines to $2 billion by the year 2000, and push for their acceptance in the West.

"With fewer side-effects than many Western medicines and its success rate in treating some chronic ailments like cancer, cardiovascular disease and AIDS, traditional Chinese medicine has attracted more and more foreign enthusiasts in recent years," said Jia Qian, the official in charge of the project.

But "due to differences between the theory of Western and traditional medicines, the latter are not allowed to be registered in some Western nations," said Mr. Jia.

Hongyuan will fund research to improve the quality of Chinese medicines and strengthen their brand names as well as establishing clinics abroad where their use can be publicised.

Major markets for Chinese medicines are currently Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao and Japan.

Many Chinese medicines are complex mixtures of ground herbs, minerals and animals parts boiled for several hours and taken as teas or infusions over many weeks, or applied as compresses.

The mixtures are made up for each patient individually and seek to cure the imbalance in the body's functions that cause the disease, not merely remove the symptoms.

But Chinese medicines have found it difficult to penetrate Western markets, not least because of reports of poisonings caused by contamination of base ingredients and a belief that even simple remedies use endangered animal parts.

Regular reports that herbal medicines have successfully cured acquired immune-deficiency syndrome (AIDS) as well as cancer and other diseases that have flummoxed Western doctors have also met with scepticism.

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

Charity looks at the need and not at the cause
— German proverb.

Parodies and caricatures are the most penetrating of criticisms
— Aldous Huxley (1894-1963).

ANSWERS

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

1. The horse's tail
2. the black circles
3. the horse's eye
4. the horse's hair
5. the horse's teeth
6. the man's teeth
7. the man's headband
8. the man's nose
9. the horse's eyelashes
10. the ear

* * * *

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

(1) Curaçao is a sweet liqueur flavoured with orange.
Benedictine is a sweet liqueur formerly made by the Benedictine monks.
Tokay is a rich aromatic wine (properly a liqueur) from Tokay in Hungary.
Cognac is a very good French brandy.
Maraschine is a liqueur distilled from a small black cherry.
Maraschine is a liqueur distilled from a small black cherry.

(2) Irritable, easily roused to anger.

(3) Embolden, gasify, infuriate, sublimate.

(4) Sirloin from the back (loin) of the ox.
Cutlet from the upper ribs of the sheep, etc.
Gammon from the front leg of the pig.
Steak from rear back of the ox.
Brisket from the front belly of the ox.

* * * *

PUZZLES

"PICKING UP DIAMONDS"

(47)
as follows:

5 in the first line.
6 in the second line.
4 in the third line.
5 in the fourth line.
4 in the fifth line.
5 in the sixth line.
3 in the seventh line.
4 in the eighth line.
5 in the ninth line.
and 6 in the bottom corner.

King reiterates support for Palestinian rights

(Continued from page 1)

Arafat told King Hussein of his "anxiety" over the deadlock in the peace process during their three-hour summit.

Nabil Shaath, international cooperation minister who attended the meeting, said Mr. Arafat spoke of "his anxiety as to the non-implementation of any agreements" with Israel since Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing government came to power in June.

The Palestinian leader also complained of the "lack of progress in negotiations and the problems we are facing due to the closure" of the Palestinian territories imposed by Israel three months ago.

After returning to Gaza from the meeting, Mr. Arafat said: "We discussed in detail the peace process and how to push it (forward) at all levels."

King Hussein sought to reassure Mr. Arafat that Israel was still committed to peace, Jordanian officials said.

The King said he was convinced Mr. Netanyahu was "serious in the search for peace and is looking for opportunities rather than obstacles," an official told AFP.

Mr. Arafat raised with the King what he sees as a key obstacle to the Palestinian peace process — Netanyahu's decision to ease restrictions imposed by the former Labour government on expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The Palestinian leader on Tuesday bitterly condemned the lifting of the freeze as a "flagrant violation" of past agreements that was aimed at "sabotaging the peace process."

Mr. Netanyahu told a press conference in Amman after talks with the King on Monday that the lifting of the restrictions did not mean a green signal to build new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza but they allowed for building within existing settlements to cater for the "natural growth of communities."

King Hussein told the same press conference that the settlement issue was at the centre of "too much speculation, too much of an attempt to blow things out of proportion at times and create areas of misunderstanding."

King Hussein and Mr. Arafat also discussed pledges made by Mr. Netanyahu on Monday to ease restrictions on trade between Jordan and the Palestinian territories, an issue of key importance for the Jordanian and Palestinian economies.

Other obstacles to the peace process for the Palestinians are Israel's delay in pulling troops out of the West Bank town of Hebron and Mr. Netanyahu's refusal to discuss sharing Jerusalem.

Following his talks with King Hussein, Mr. Arafat was due to discuss the settlement issue and other aspects of the peace process this weekend in Cairo with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Saeb Erakat, a member of the Palestinian self-rule cabinet, on Wednesday accused the Netanyahu government of engaging in a "game of deceit" by making a public show of wanting to continue peacemaking while moving quietly to kill the process with neglect and inaction.

"We have a difficult situation on the ground. The closure goes on, there is a lack of implementation of the peace agreement, and people are asking us what is left of the peace process. Do we have one any more?" Mr. Erakat said in an interview with the Associated Press.

He urged Israel to appoint a chief negotiator and get on with negotiations on a final settlement. There are also 34 issues to be discussed about the existing agreements. These include the Hebron withdrawal, opening land routes between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, release of Palestinian prisoners and further troop withdrawals from the West Bank scheduled for Sept. 7.

Despite Mr. Netanyahu's high-profile visits to Jordan, Egypt and the United States, Mr. Erakat warned that without progress in Palestinian negotiations there would be a cycle of "violence and counter-violence."

Israeli officials maintain that Mr. Netanyahu will soon resume negotiations with the Palestinians and announce plans for Hebron.

The Israeli daily Yediot Ahronot reported that Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai had planned to meet Mr. Arafat this week and present his withdrawal plan for Hebron.

But the paper said the decision was delayed by a crisis over the opening of an office in East Jerusalem by a Palestinian legislator, a move that Mr. Netanyahu described as a violation of the interim autonomy accords.

'Levy considers quitting'

(Continued from page 1)

Tuesday's television interview.

"Warren Christopher doesn't conduct the foreign relations of the United States? James Baker didn't conduct the foreign relations of the United States?" asked Michael Kleiner, a member of parliament close to Mr. Levy, referring to the U.S. Secretary of State and one of his predecessors.

Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Levy have been warring with each other for years. Relations were bitter the last time Mr. Levy was foreign minister in the Likud-led government in 1990-92 and Mr. Netanyahu was his deputy.

Mr. Levy is a relative moderate among hardliners, but critics say he swings left and right to suit his political aims.

Open tensions at the top are an Israeli tradition.

In the last government legendary Labour Party rivals Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin found a way to make peace with each other while making history with the Palestinians.

But foreign ministry sources and former diplomats say Mr. Levy is no equal to Mr. Peres.

"He isn't viewed in Likud as a natural candidate for foreign minister. He is viewed more as someone who forced himself on them by nature of his political weight," said Shlomo Ben Ami, a Labour member of parliament and former ambassador to Spain.

Born in Morocco and the father of 12, Mr. Levy draws support mostly from his own working-class Sephardi Jewish community from north Africa and other Arab states — and this, in an Israeli establishment dominated by Ashkenazi Jews of European origin.

He speaks French but not English — a handicap with Israel's close U.S. ally and in sharp contrast to the smooth-talking American-educated Netanyahu.

Questioned about Mr. Levy's intentions, a foreign ministry spokesman stopped short of denying the reports of a possible resignation.

"For the moment, these are only rumours, there has been no statement by the foreign minister on this subject," said the spokesman, Yigal Palmor.

The spokesman also declined to comment on the reasons for Mr. Levy's absence at the cabinet meeting.

Mr. Levy's unhappiness and possible resignation were the subject of articles in several Israeli newspapers.

Spider silk cuts weight of bridges

SCIENTISTS have synthesised the material from which the Golden Orb Weaver spider makes its web. It is one of the strongest materials in the world, stronger than steel and could be used for ultra-light suspension bridges, tough cars that never rust and shoes that never wear.

The scientists have succeeded in copying the silk-producing genes of the spider and are using them to create a synthetic material which they believe is the model for a new generation of advanced bio-materials.

On an equal-weight basis, spider silk is far stronger than steel, and it is estimated that if a single strand could be made about 10mm in diameter, it would be strong enough to stop a jumbo jet in flight.

The attraction of the silk spun by the spider is a combination of great strength and enormous elasticity, which man-made fibres have been unable to replicate. A third important factor is that it is extremely light.

The new material, biosilk, which has been spun for the first time by researchers at DuPont, has an enormous range of potential uses in construction and manufacturing.

Army scientists are already looking at the possibilities of using it for lightweight bulletproof vests and parachutes.

For some time, biochemists have been trying to synthesise the drag-line silk of the Golden Orb Weaver. The drag-line silk, which forms the radial arms of the web, is stronger than the other parts of the web and some biochemists believe a synthetic version could prove to be as important a material as nylon, which has been around for 50 years.

To recreate the material, scientists, including Randolph Lewis at the University of Wyoming, first examined the silk-producing gland of the spider. "We took out the glands that produce the silk and looked at the coding for the protein material they make, which is spun into a web. We then went looking for clones with the right DNA," he says.

His team produced a synthetic gene based on the DNA coding of the silk and implanted it into bacteria which acted as surrogates to produce globules of the raw material. This protein is dissolved in a solution and resulting mix is pushed through a tiny whole to produce a solid fibre.

At DuPont, researchers have used both yeast and bacteria as hosts to grow the raw material, which they have spun into fibres. Robert Dorsch, DuPont's director of biochemical development, says the globules of protein — comparable with marbles in an egg — are harvested and processed.

"We break open the bacteria, separate out the globules of protein and use them as the raw starting material. With yeast, the gene system can be designed so that the material excretes the protein outside the yeast for better access," he says.

"The bacteria and the yeast are producing the same protein, equivalent to that which the spider uses in the drag lines of the web. The spider mixes the protein into a water-based solution and then spins it into a solid fibre in one go.

"Since we are not as clever as the spider and are not using organisms nearly as sophisticated, we substituted man-made approaches and dissolved the protein in chemical solvents which are then spun to extrude the material through small holes to form the solid fibre."

DuPont says it envisages many possible uses for a new biosilk material. They say that earthquake-resistant suspension bridges hung from cables of synthetic spider silk fibres may become a reality. Stronger ropes, safer seat belts, shoe soles that do not wear out, and tough new clothing are among the other applications.

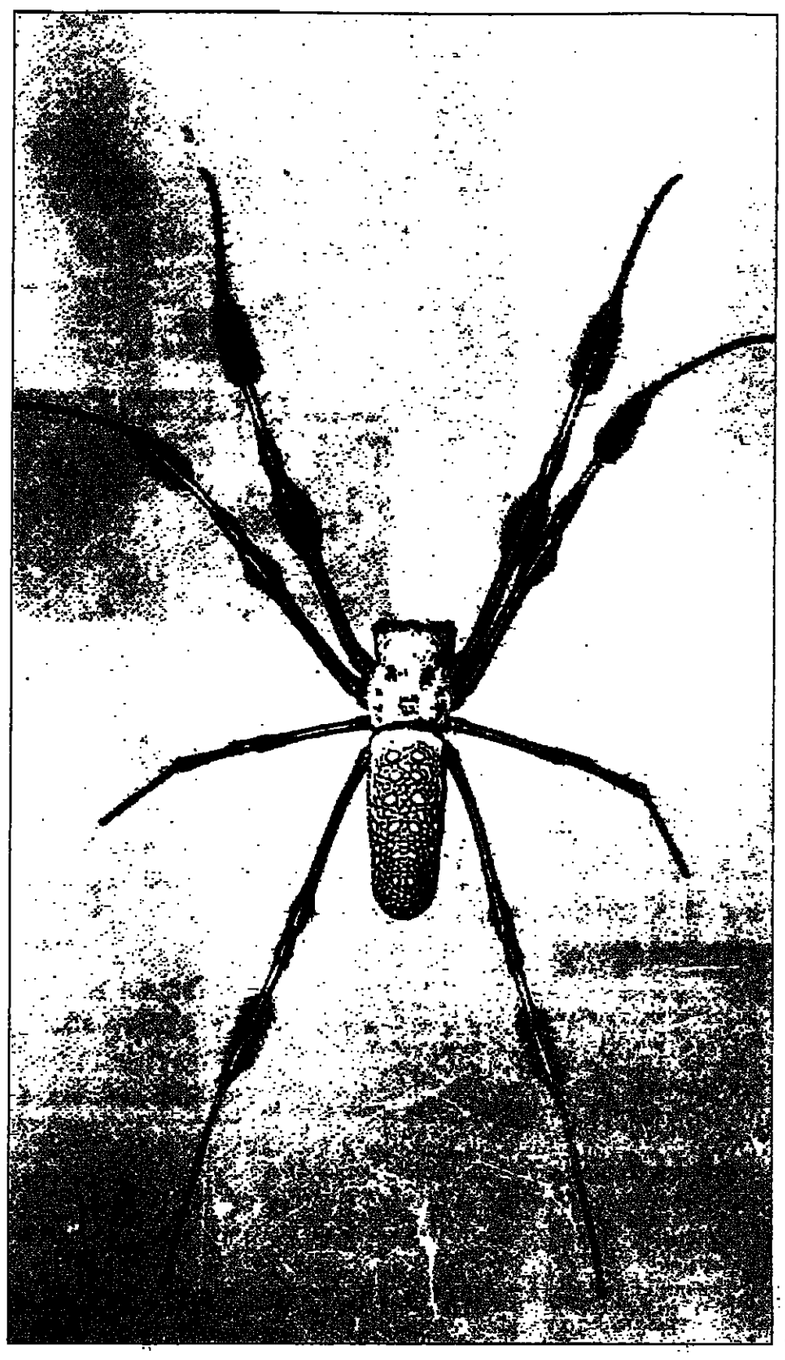
DuPont is upbeat about the development. "It has been over 50 years since the discoveries of Wallace Carothers and his team that gave the world nylon and ushered in the age of polymers," says a spokesman. "Based upon the success of our initial demonstrations, we believe that harnessing biosynthesis will play a big role in a new materials revolution."

Biochemists, such as Lewis, see the potential range of uses of biosilk as almost limitless. "It is very strong and retains elasticity, and there are no man-made materials that can mimic both these properties. It is also a biological material with all the advantages that has over petro-chemicals," he says.

At DuPont's laboratories, Mr. Dorsch is excited by the prospect of new super-strong materials, but he warns they are many years away. "We are at an early stage, but theoretical comparisons are that we will wind up with a very strong, tough material, with an ability to absorb shock, and which is stronger and tougher than the man-made materials that are conventionally available to us," he says.

The spider is not the only creature that has aroused the interest of material scientists. They have also become envious of the natural adhesive secreted by the sea mussel. It produces a protein adhesive to attach itself to rocks. It is tedious and expensive to extract the protein from the mussel, so researchers have already produced a synthetic gene for use in surrogate bacteria.

The Sunday Times



Golden Orb Weaver: its silk is stronger than steel

Assad rejects 'Lebanon first' deal

(Continued from page 1)

as a first step towards peace with Syria.

Syria has said the Israeli proposal to pull back from a 15 kilometres South Lebanon occupation zone sidesteps Syrian demands for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Mr. Netanyahu rejects swapping occupied Arab land for peace, the basis of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The official Tishreen daily on Wednesday warned Mr. Netanyahu that Syria "will not cede an atom of Golan soil."

"We are committed to peace based on previous agreements and resolutions and commitments that were made in the past five years," Mr. Assad said, adding that Israel wanted to negotiate with its own rules instead of on the basis of accepted agreements.

"Peace is not for one party alone," Mr. Assad said. "When it will be established, it will be for all parties."

Mr. Mubarak, who has been mediating between Israel and its Arab neighbours, urged the Israelis to resume negotiations with both Syria and Lebanon.

Mr. Mubarak said he told Mr. Netanyahu during the Israeli leader's visit to Egypt last month that Israel could only achieve security through peace.

"I said peace will lead to security," he said. "Without peace, it will be difficult to maintain security."

After Mr. Netanyahu's remark Monday about discussing all issues with Syria, the U.S. State Department praised the Israeli leader for making "a very strong and a very positive statement."

Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns said the United States hoped this would have a positive impact on the Arab side, but he noted that restarting Syrian-Israeli talks still needs much effort.

"What we are hearing privately is interest from both governments ... But they have not yet reached an agreement on when this will happen," Mr. Burns said. "And my impression is ... This is going to take a lot of work to put together, if it can be put together."

Threats against U.S. sanctions bill mount

(Continued from page 1)

The new legislation comes on the heels of bombing attacks in Saudi Arabia and Atlanta, and the explosion of TWA Flight 800. While those cases remain unsolved, the U.S. government accuses Iran and Libya of sponsoring terrorism.

Japan, China and Australia have joined international condemnation of the United States.

Japan called the sanctions "regrettable" and said the law may violate free-trade rules under the World Trade Organisation.

China, faced with international pressure over human rights policies, politely said the U.S. legislation is "not consistent with universally accepted norms of international behaviour and will do no good."

On Tuesday, Russia and Germany were among countries protesting the sanctions.

European Commission Vice-President Sir Leon Brittan, in charge of trade for the EU, described the legislation as unacceptable.

"It represents a clear violation of the principle of extra-territoriality and constitutes a threat for the European economic system," he said in an interview with the Italian newspaper La Stampa.

Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said his government would stand firm against the new law.

"Iranian policy has to be strong, firm, determined and revolutionary to counter all attacks by the United States against Islam and the Islamic government," Ayatollah Khamenei said on Iranian state television Wednesday.

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Candidates should have

- A good secondary or higher level of education plus relevant secretarial qualification
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- Good knowledge of computers (spreadsheet and word processing packages)
- High level English and Arabic, and preferably French or one other European language
- Ability to work within an international team

DRIVER

Candidates should have:

- A clean driving licence
- At least 5 years relevant experience
- Good knowledge of English and Arabic
- Ability to work within an international team

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APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 29 AUGUST 1996

Jordan seeks U.S. influence to facilitate exports to Palestine, Iraq

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Wednesday sought American help to remove Israeli-imposed obstacles in trade with the Palestinian territories as well as to secure a waiver of part of the international sanctions against Iraq so as to expand the range of the Kingdom's exports to its eastern neighbour.

The request for help to remove the barriers in Jordanian exports to the Palestinian territories was made by a Jordanian ministerial team which met with a visiting American delegation headed by Commerce Department Undersecretary Stuart Eizenstat.

The appeal was renewed by Investment Promotion Corporation Director-General Taleb Rifai at an afternoon gathering arranged by the Jordan Businessmen Association and the Jordan Trade Association.

Dr. Rifai, noting that Jordan was not focusing on increased outright American financial aid but seeking American intervention and influence with others, said the one of the best ways Washington could help the Kingdom was by facilitating Jordanian exports.

In this vein, Dr. Rifai mentioned the Palestinian territories as well as Iraq.

Bassam Saket, a former minister and current chairman of the Jordan Trade Association who moderated the gathering, referred to a request made by the Turkish government for partial exemption from the sanctions against Iraq and asked what chances Jordan stood to secure a similar arrangement.

Earlier, Jordan Businessmen Association Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa outlined the economic achievements of Jordan and the Kingdom's determination to pursue reforms and economic liberalisation and expressed hope that U.S.-Jordanian cooperation would continue to grow to benefit both sides.

It was not immediately clear whether the Jordanian government had made a formal request for a partial waive of the sanctions on Iraq to the United Nations or the U.S., which effectively controls many of the decisions of the Security Council where it has veto power.

Dr. Saket said Jordanian businesses wanted to add "consumer products" in Jordan's exports to Iraq. Present exports from the Kingdom to Iraq are limited to food and medicine.

Pending the finalisation of definite mechanisms, Iraq is expected to start limited exports of oil next month to pay for its food and medicine imports. It is expected to have around $650 million every three months for the purpose in proceeds from the oil sales administered by the United Nations.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary-General Mohammad Smadi, who attended the morning meeting with Mr. Eizenstat, said the U.S. official promised Washington's help in removing the Israeli-imposed obstacles in the way of Jordanian exports to the Palestinians.

The Jordanian ministerial team that met with Mr. Eizenstat and an accompanying delegation was headed by Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb and included Minister of Finance Marwan Awad and Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf.

In his comments at the afternoon meeting, Dr. Rifai said the full potential of Jordanian exports was being blocked because of the hurdles in the movement of goods to the Palestinian market through Israeli-controlled territories. Similarly, he said, the sanctions on Iraq had a serious impact on Jordanian trade.

On both counts, he observed, the U.S. was in a position to influence the decision-making.

Dr. Saket explained to Mr. Eizenstat that measures adopted by Israel at points of entry to Israeli-controlled territory were making Jordanian products expensive and thus rendering them weak in the face of competition.

The Jordan Cement Factories Company was selling cement to the Palestinians at JD 42 per tonne, but the actual cost rises to JD 75 per tonne by the time of delivery because of delays and extra expenses incurred as a result of Israeli-imposed conditions, including time-consuming physical inspection of shipments at the entry points and other demands, he noted.

In reply, Mr. Eizenstat noted that the U.S. was providing $100 million in inspection equipment to Israel. The equipment will be installed at the bridges and entry points to Israeli-controlled territory, and this would facilitate the quick inspection and movement of cargo, he pointed out.

Israel justifies the elaborate inspection procedures as vital to ensure that the cargo does not contain arms and explosives.

According to reports in the Israeli press, the proposed equipment is custom-built to inspect large-size vehicles and detect arms, bombs and explosives in a matter of minutes.

Mr. Eizenstat, who praised Jordan's commitment to honouring the international sanctions against Iraq, said he was not fully aware of the nature of the sought-for exemption but promised that he would have a reply for the Kingdom as soon as he returns home.

U.S. official outlines steps for Jordan to attract investments

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the United States intend to formalise a bilateral investment treaty before the Middle East and North Africa summit in Cairo in October, a senior U.S. official said Wednesday after talks with Jordanian officials.

The official, Under-Secretary of the Department of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat, was addressing a gathering of the Jordan Businessmen Association and the Jordan Trade Association after meeting three Jordanian ministers with whom he also discussed the mechanism to channel a $200 million loan to help the Kingdom import U.S. products.

Meanwhile, Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb, who led the Jordanian side to the morning meeting with a U.S. team headed by Mr. Eizenstat, said the U.S. had already agreed to grant the soft loan. The loan will be made available to Jordanian importers of U.S. products and will be administered by the Central Bank of Jordan.

In his comments at the business gathering, Mr. Eizenstat reiterated the Clinton administration's commitment to help Jordan build a "dynamic economy," and said the proposed bilateral investment treaty, strong enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPR) protection laws and elimination of time-consuming bureaucratic procedures as well as a revamped customs structure were the keys to attracting American investments to the Kingdom.

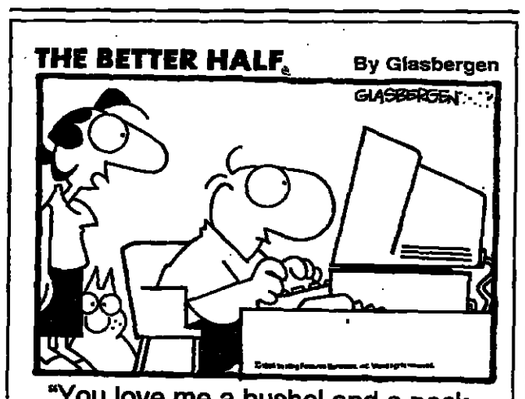
The proposed bilateral treaty will include guarantees of protection for American investments and a series of incentives to attract capital and specific measures that eliminate bureaucracy.

"We expect both our governments to pursue negotiations leading to a bilateral investment treaty that, when signed, provides American investors with a greater sense of confidence in Jordan," Mr. Eizenstat told the gathering.

The U.S. official emphasised the importance American businesses attach to effective enforcement of IPR laws and also called for customs reform and simplification, which, he said, "must be pursued vigorously."

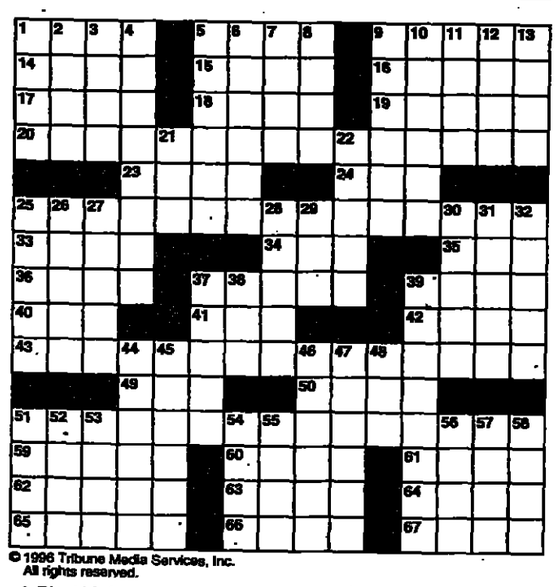
(Continued on page 9)

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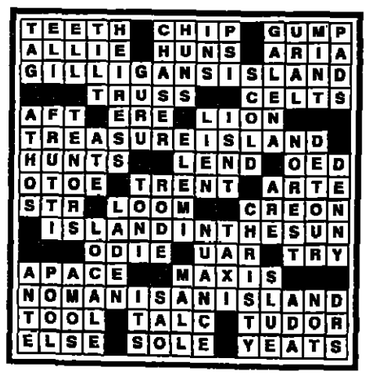
THE Daily Crossword by Jay Sullivan



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ACROSS
1 Lulu
5 Small drink
9 Abu —
14 Kind of excuse
15 Morning wear
16 Ready and willing
17 Flaccid
18 Pitcher
19 Pinch
20 51A's Venus de Milo story?
23 Poker player's words
24 Yes, Pierre
25 51A's astronomy lesson?
33 Pit
34 Partake of
35 Chamomile or pekoe
36 Tire tracks
37 Certain bell sounds
39 Collate
40 GI retreat
41 NY time
42 The Andrews Sisters
43 51A's bachelor buddies?
49 Genetic letters
50 Walked
51 Author of 20A, 25A and 43A
59 Charter
60 Son of Aphrodite
61 Hawkeye State
62 Ray
63 Tilt
64 Always
65 Paroxysm
66 Allot
67 Foxx

DOWN
1 Earthenware vessel
2 Ingenuous
3 Jane Austen novel
4 Sings again
5 Attracted
6 Ivanhoe's love
7 Early fratricide victim
8 Blackbird
9 Reroute
10 Sandwich Islands, today
11 Ripening ingredient
12 Smile broadly
13 Nettles
21 Big bird
22 Blows a horn
25 Play (a guitar) idly
26 Legislative assembly
27 John
28 Slowly, musically
29 Droop
30 Weather warning
31 Unearthly
32 Squelched
37 Coup —
38 Somewhat: suffix
39 More old-fashioned
44 Usurps
45 Pants part
46 Maximum
47 Sad
48 Came in first
51 "Desire Under the —"
52 Harvest
53 Grandma
54 Position of leadership
55 Clinton's canal
56 Made cloth
57 Dazzled
58 Gridiron gain



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Give others you know a charming smile if you want their cooperation today on some important career activities. Later this evening, be patient when delays occur or you could find yourself in quite a frustrated state of mind.
TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Be particularly kind today with those who live with you and avoid a wordy conflict which would do you all no good. Spruce up your home later this evening and invite close friends for an time of good entertainment.
GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Cement better relations with fellow associates, however, avoid a talkative individual who could give you incorrect information and make your career very difficult. Get some necessary shopping completed later this evening.
MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get your financial structure improved during the daytime today and you can become quite prosperous in the eyes of some bigwig. Avoid someone later this evening someone who likes to nag you and make you upset.
LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Plan the amusements like today for the days ahead and include your loved ones or close friends in your ideas. Do some budgeting later this evening so that you can cut down on unnecessary extravagances.
VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Try not to irritate your loved ones or you could find yourself in a great deal of difficulty. You mate starts the day right with an ego boost so maintain this attitude and you will be able to hand any difficult situation.
LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Turn a new contact into a good friend today who will be able to provide with good advice on any career oriented activities. Plan how to gain a long-cherished goal. Be kind to your mate if he or she is tired.
SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Come to a better understanding with fellow associates and you can make real progress in any business related activities. You will gain more this way and stop being so restrained if you ever intend to succeed.
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A civic affair could cause you difficulty later this evening if you are not careful so be cautious if yo can. Try to meet one you admire and get his or her advice on any career activities you have in mind. Try to improve your character.
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) Try hard to please you mate today and try to understand any difficult which he or she might have which is troubling. Don't confide later this evening in someone about your plans for success until you have meet with a bigwig.
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Listen to the advice of a successful fellow associate and obtain his or her secrets and use them to your advantage. Don't spend too much for pleasure this evening or you could find yourself short of funds.
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get your surroundings beautified today and plan to invite some close friends in for a bood time. Plan how to get your regular career activities completed efficiently and you will gain much success in the days ahead.
Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You feel it wise to do as your loved ones desire, however, you may encounter some difficulty in your business activities which were not anticipated. Draw blueprints which fellow associates can understand easily.
TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Show much devotion to your mate today and you will get more affection in return. Stop being such a timid soul and show your aggressiveness especially towards those in authority and you will gain much success.
GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take a good look at your home today and improve its condition so that close friends and fellow associates will be happy to visit you anytime. Have a few guests in when the labour is completed and you will be proud to show off your efforts.
MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have fine ideas which can be utlised today with the assistance of fellow associates so take advantage of this situation. Rest this evening with your loved ones for you could have a busy weekend ahead of you at this time.
LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Set up a budget today which is easy to follow and stick to whatever you have set down as a financial goal. Show that you are active and sensible in your career activities and think practically in whatever are your plans.
VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Bring your ideas to an expert today and get advice concerning personal matters. Be active later this evening in civic activities and you will get fine results from your efforts to make your community more harmonious.
LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Intimate desires can be expressed today in such a fashion towards your mate that he or she will appreciate your concern. Get a close friend to help you gain one important goal in particular for you to be successful.
SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Talk to recent acquaintances and get good suggestions concerning your career activities and how you can make them more prosperous. Make sure you meet a responsibility on time or you could lose face with someone in authority.
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Study activities better today and become more successful with them in the days ahead. After a busy day, rest up later this evening and be happy in the company of your loved ones as this weekend could be hectic.
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) Study a plan you have made today and then put it into operation so that you can gain much success. Don't hesitate to seek good advice from some knowledgeable individual and gain the answers to your important questions.
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get busy with practical matter today and consult with fellow associates for their advice on your career activities. This evening is good for showing more devotion to your mate, so do so and you will receive this devotion in return.
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Discuss a big project today with your fellow associate and come to a fine agreement which will be quite beneficial to your career. Show your ability to handle any business task and you will gain goodwill in the process.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

JUMBLE® THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

AGGYB

TAGEA

RESNAW

CITILE



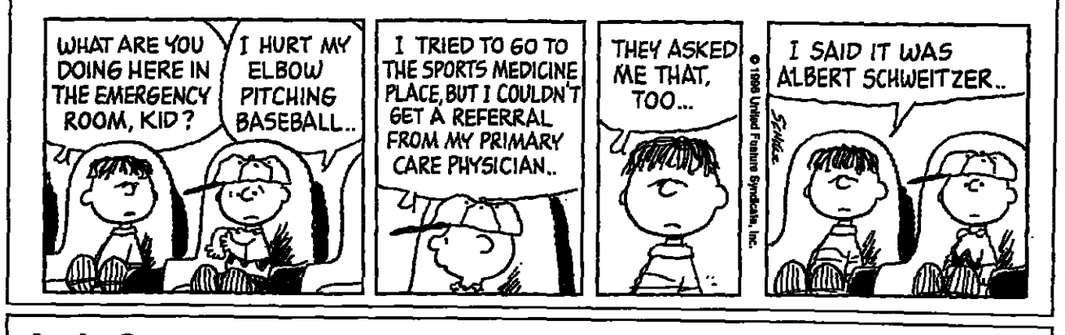
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here : A _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ANNOY PLAIT BESIDE CALIPH
Answer: What a rabbit family does in a restaurant — TABLE HOPS

Peanuts



Andy Capp



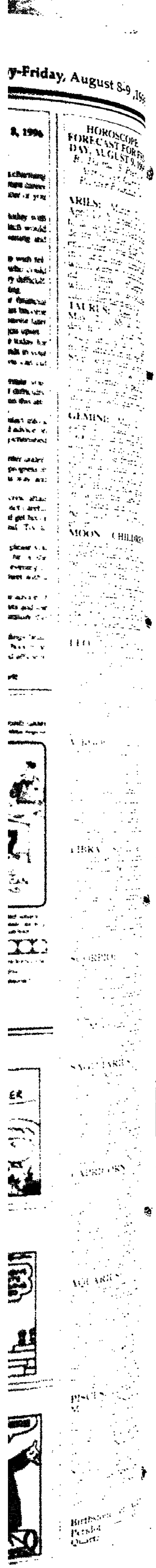
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Cabinet eases rules to import cars

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Council of Ministers has authorised clearing of cars that are more than five years old on condition that they are for personal use and not for trading purposes.

The Cabinet also authorised the ministers of finance and industry and trade to grant exemptions upon the recommendation of the Department of Customs.

Informed sources explained that customs on exempted cars would remain the same as those imposed on vehicles manufactured in 1991. This would be the minimum customs allowed for clearing the cars.

The former regulations did not allow clearing of cars that were more than five years old and any exemptions had to be approved by the prime minister on the recommendation of the ministers of finance and industry and trade.

Lockheed and Israel's Rafael sign joint venture agreement

TEL AVIV (R) — Lockheed Martin Corp and Rafael, Israel's armament development authority, Wednesday signed a long-term agreement to jointly market the AGM-142/Popeye family of missiles to the United States and other customers.

The air-to-ground missiles will be manufactured both in Israel and at Lockheed facilites in Florida and Alabama.

The 50-50 joint venture will be managed by PGSUS (Precision Guided Systems U.S.), a limited liability company being established in Orlando to conduct business on behalf of the two aerospace firms.

"After the first sale we will decide how much will be invested in the joint venture," Ran Galli, Rafael vice-president for business development and marketing, told reporters at the signing ceremony in Tel Aviv.

"We expect the first sale to be very soon," he added.

The Popeye has been operational with the Israeli air force since the late 1980s and with the U.S. Air Force (USAF) since 1992. The USAF signed a contract for over 50 of the missiles before formation of the joint venture.

"We expect a similar (U.S.) purchase next year," Mr. Galli told Reuters.

In May the Australian defence department selected the AGM-142 as the preferred stand-off weapon for the Royal Australian Air Force's F-111C aircraft. Mr. Galli said Australia will buy 60 missiles.

Thomas Corcoran, president and chief operating officer of Lockheed Martin Electronics Missiles, said other countries, which he declined to name, are contemplating purchasing the missile.

David Stemer, programme manager at Rafael, said South Korea is among those interested in the missile.

"We have target projected sales of over 300 missiles for the next couple of years," Mr. Galli said.

Establishing the joint venture in the United States is expected to help boost sales of the missile to countries that prefer to buy U.S. weapons systems, officials said.

It will also enable Israel's defence department to purchase the missiles from the joint venture with the use of U.S. military aid, which totals $1.8 billion a year.

Also known by its USAF code-name Have Nap, the missile was a joint programme between Rafael and Martin Marietta, which was acquired by Lockheed.

AMF marks 20 years, protests stubborn debtors

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The main Arab financial institution marked the 20th anniversary of its creation last month with a pledge to maintain aid to member states but protests about its festering default problem.

The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), a regional IMF-style organisation, said outstanding debts by Iraq and other members had exceeded half its capital and adversely affected its lending activity and other services to Arab states.

The defaults, which have accumulated over the past 10 years, have reached around $692 million , nearly 53 per cent of the AMF's paid-up capital of around $1.3 billion , according to its chairman, Jassim Al Manai.

Mr. Manai, a Bahraini who took over from the AMF's former Saudi chairman in 1995, said the problem and an earlier financial crisis caused by corruption had prompted the fund to build up reserves by setting aside an average $100 million annually.

By the end of 1995, the general reserves had climbed to around $1 billion and they are set to rise further.

"Unfortunately, with such achievements, the AMF is still suffering from the arrears problem. But what is reassuring is that we are pursuing contacts with the defaulting members to settle the problem," Mr. Manai said in a statement.

AMF figures showed Iraq was the main defaulter, owing around $292 million in outstanding debts and interest. Sudan's debt stood at around $268 million while the rest is owed by Somalia.

AMF sources said they saw no imminent solution to the problem as Iraq's coffers are virtually empty because its assets have been frozen worldwide in line with a United Nations embargo imposed when Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's forces invaded neighbouring Kuwait in August 1990.

Sudan is also caught up in a prolonged civil strife in the south and has a foreign debt of more than $16 billion while Somalia has been split into two following a destructive civil war.

"The arrears problem has hurt the fund's activities and its commitment to member states," the Abu Dhabi-based AMF said in a previous report.

U.S. official advises Jordan on investments

(Continued from page 8)

He specifically referred to the customs duty structure on automobiles that call for levies up to 220 per cent on automobiles of high engine size — a category to which most American cars belong. Such tariffs, he said, effectively prevent some products from entering the market, "thus also preventing Jordanians from the range of products and prices they should be afforded."

In general, "the extent to which your government modifies and simplifies business law, regulations and procedures will be reflected in the amount of foreign business interest that is generated as a result," said Mr. Eizenstat. "And I assure you there will be business interest in this market."

He noted that dozens of American business delegations have visited Jordan over the past years, particularly after the Amman economic summit held late last year to familiarise themselves with the business climate in the Kingdom. Simultaneously, the U.S. adminstration has also been arranging Jordanian trade missions to the U.S.

Once Jordan achieves the called-for reforms, Mr. Eizenstat added, there will be a steady flow of American investment to the Kingdom that would generate job opportunities and raise the standard of living here. This, he pointed out, is one of the dividends of peace that Jordanians are waiting for.

He cited as examples two major projects that American firms are interested in — a 250-megawatt power-generating plant and a refinery with an installed capacity to process 250,000 barrels of oil per day.

Noting that discussions were under way on the projects, Mr. Eizenstat brushed aside the reported failure of one U.S. firm to provide a bank guarantee after signing an agreement on the refinery project.

Without any specific reference, he said that notwithstanding such technical hurdles there was genuine interest among U.S. firms in the project as well as the power plant proposal and voiced confidence that the projects would materialise soon, generating thousands of direct and indirect jobs "soon."

Mr. Eizenstat acknowledged the fast pace of economic reforms that Jordan has undertaken and paid tribute to the Kingdom's commitment to continue the restructuring of its fiscal and economic foundations and policies.

The Amman economic summit, he said, has put Jordan on the world economic map, and it is "going to stay there."

Mr. Eizenstat stressed, in reply to a question raised by newspaper columnist Fahed Fanek, that it was unrealistic to expect massive doses of direct American aid to Jordan.

"The concept of aid is replaced by the concept of trade," he said, adding that the budgetary situation of the U.S. was not the same as in 1979 when Washington undertook to grant an annual military aid of $2.1 billion to Egypt (and $3 billion to Israel) after those two countries signed a peace treaty.

At the same time, he said, the administration was working with Congress to increase the token $10 million grant to Jordan. "That is one of the messages that I will be taking back," he told the gathering.

Mr. Eizenstat said the U.S., which launched a focused campaign to promote Jordan at the Amman summit, will press the drive again at the Cairo summit.

Such cooperation was discussed during the U.S. delegation's talks with Mr. Abul Ragheb, Planning Minister Rima Khalaf and Finance Minister Marwan Awad earlier Wednesday.

U.S. and Jordanian officials will meet in Washington next month to finalise a format for promoting Jordan at the Cairo summit.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Smadi said the U.S. and Jordan had set up a special coordination committee ahead of the Cairo summit to discuss ideas that would be submitted at the meetings.

Concluding his remarks at the afternoon gathering, Mr. Eizenstat reiterated that "the U.S. government wants to provide whatever assistance we can to Jordan and the brave people here who have led the way in economic reform as well as in the peace process.

"We know, however, that the chances of success lie with the people and the countries of the Middle East themselves and not outside supporters, such as ourselves.

"Your country, like the entire Middle East, is at a historic juncture. It has the opportunity to continue down the path of economic reform, and, in doing so, encourage other Middle East countries to follow it."

DAILY BEAT

A review of news from the Arabic press

Better ties with Arab Gulf states will cut unemployment, boost exports

** THERE IS an opportunity to export between $200 million to $300 million worth of Jordanian products to Israel and Palestine, and this is a real opportunity that would help the Jordanian economy to a great extent without any effect on the Israeli economy," Information Minister Marwan Muasher said in a lecture. He noted that Israel's annual imports amount to $22 billion whereas Jordan exports are only one tenth of that figure.

The minister said that the economic, trade and transport agreements between Jordan and Israel are not activated due to many political, administrative and economic factors. "Things don't just happen overnight," he stressed. He told the Petra and Jerash Rotary Club that naturally the target is to establish an economic coordination and that it is not true that such a cooperation between Jordan and Israel is not beneficial.

Dr. Muasher indicated there many relative advantage in the two economies which, if joined, will have a competitive weight in the region and the world. Initial cooperation between Jordan and Israel utilising these relative advantages is manifested in the textile sector, the minister pointed out. This sector, he said, employ talented and low cost labour as well as low-priced land in Jordan (compared to Israel) and make use of the Israeli marketing network and the agreements that the Jewish state have with world countries which allow customs-free exports under free trade accords. Similarly, there are possibilities to cooperate in the agricultural sector, Dr. Muasher added.

The minister told his audience that there are no magic solutions to immediately resolve the problems of poverty and unemployment and that the government has to take difficult decisions because reform cannot be carried out at no cost. He indicated that the government was much criticised for the rapprochement policy towards the Arab Gulf countries when it is the only policy that would provide an adequate and fairly quick solution to the unemployment problem.

He indicated that better ties with Arab Gulf countries have opened the door for the employment of around 6,000 persons in that region. Moreover, the Saudi and other markets in the Gulf will soon be opened for Jordan products, Dr. Muasher pointed out (Al Aswaq).

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates — Prices as at 7/08/96 19:32

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	FFR	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.4844	0.6481	1.2090	107.89	1.3717	1518.69	1.6660	5.0605
DE Mark	0.6737	-	0.4365	0.8145	72.67	0.9239	1022.76	1.1224	3.4086
GB Sterling	1.5429	1.5429	-	1.8634	165.97	2.1164	2342.12	2.5693	7.8043
CH Franc	0.8271	1.2281	0.5352	-	89.05	1.1355	1256.12	137.71	4.1806
JP Yen	0.0093	1.3750	0.6002	1.1206	-	1.2709	14.06	154.28	4.6864
CA Dollar	0.7289	1.0797	0.4723	0.8814	1.28	-	1107.27	1.2137	3.6854
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9773	0.4266	0.0796	1409.05	0.9033	-	10.97	3.3328
NL Guilder	0.6002	1.6.0e	0.3897	72.68	64.72	0.8250	970.76	-	3.0362
FR Franc	0.1976	0.2934	0.1280	23.8981	21.30	0.2710	32.90	32.9000	-

Energy

Oils	Last	Previous
Brent	20.20	20.15
W. Texas	20.80	21.00
Bony	20.20	20.15
Dubai	18.25	18.25
UL Gas	197.00	198.00

Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.3959	0.17282	0.32275	28.7819
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.40429	0.17648	0.32954	29.3884
KW Dinar	3.3417	4.96278	2.16591	4.04531	360.75
BH Dinar	0.3770	3.03856	1.7191	3.21027	286.287
CY Pound	2.1604	3.2071	1.3998	2.6137	233.086

Metal Prices

Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	388.2	388.7
Lead (3 Months)	827	831
Nickel (3 Months)	7000	7010

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)

Period / C'ncy	-1- Month	-3- Months	-6- Months	-9- Months	-1- Year
CHF	2.15	2.30	2.38	2.37	2.56
ITL	8.87	8.68	8.53	8.43	8.31

Energy

Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	117.75	Spot
Cocoa ($/ton)	1404	Spot
Sugar ($/ton)	367.5	Spot
Wheat ($/ton)	190	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	23.57	Spot
Tea (sig/kg)	109	Spot
Barley ($/bsh)	3.47	Spot
Rice ($/ton)	425	Spot

*** JOD Cross Rates**

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.0832	1.0932
DE Mark	0.4758	0.4782
CH Franc	0.5842	0.5871
FR Franc	0.1397	0.1404
JP Yen	0.6584	0.6612
NL Guilder	0.4242	0.4263
IT Lira	0.0456	0.0467

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

JORDAN MARKETPLACE

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Russian press snipes at U.S. as Olympic team flies home

MOSCOW (R) — Russia welcomed its athletes home as heroes Tuesday after their first Olympics without comrades from former Soviet states or the massive resources the Communist superpower once devoted to sporting success.

But the press, dismayed that Russia came a distant second to the United States in the medals table, sounded a cold war note by sniping at the Atlanta organisers, alleging dirty tricks over dope tests and warning that Russia would do better next time.

"The overall moral victory went to the Russians, as after the collapse of the USSR there were many who wished to 'bury' Russian sport," the liberal newspaper Sevodnya (Today) said.

It described the overturning of doping decisions against several Russian team members as a victory over an attempt by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to deprive Russia of medals "by illegal methods."

Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star), the official army newspaper, said in a headline: "Now the whole world knows the Russian anthem."

President Boris Yeltsin, in an official statement quoted by Interfax News Agency, said the team, which won 26 gold medals to the United States' 44, had "upheld the nation's glorious sporting traditions...in an honest sporting contest."

The Kremlin leader, unseen in public since before his reelection on July 3, was not among officials who welcomed team members in a low-key ceremony at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport.

The sports-mad president is facing growing demands for state funds to help restore some of the prestige that Soviet athletes won in the Communist era. Russia's performance in team events in Atlanta was disappointing compared to individual successes.

"Steps need to be taken quickly at a state level if we don't want Russia to become a backwater of world sport," Vitaly Smirnov, the president of the Russian Olympic Committee, told ITAR-TASS news agency Sunday.

The Vechernaya Moskva (Evening Moscow) daily said: "This was an American Olympiad...in every sense."

The hosts may have won the most medals, it said, but the programme of the games had a heavy American accent with the inclusion of new — and distinctly un-Russian — events like baseball and beach volleyball as Olympic sports.

Moskovsky Komsomolets criticised the heavy commercialism of the Atlanta games.

"In one Olympiad, America has killed two fat birds with one stone: It proved its meanness toward humanity and filled its own pockets," the popular newspaper sneered.

Leading sports daily Sport Express gave the fortnight in Atlanta 10 out of 10 for the quality of competition. But it too slammed the organisers for, among other things, the Athletes' Village and the transport system, which got just one out of 10.



Oleg Saitov (right), Olympic champion in boxing in the 67-kilogramme category, signs autographs for children on paper flags after arriving at Sheremetyevo airport. The Russian Olympic team returned home Tuesday (Reuter photo)

Women's sport pay their way

ATLANTA (AFP) — The centennial Olympics showed that women's sport can hold it's own with men's in the way that matters most in the modern games: it can pay.

International sports chiefs came out of the woodwork in Atlanta to show their support for women's sport.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch and International Football Federation (FIFA) chief Joao Havelange gave their seal of approval to the inaugural Olympic women's football final, also attended by 76,000 less-exalted fans — a record for any women's competition in the United States.

U.S. broadcaster NBC, who paid almost half a billion dollars for the rights to the games, had enough faith in the drawing power of the expanded women's basketball tournament to schedule the women's final, rather than the dream team championship game, as the lead-in to Sunday night's closing ceremonies.

The choice reflected NBC's decision to target women viewers, with sports thought to appeal to women scheduled in prime U.S. viewing time. The policy appeared to be paying off with a significant increase in viewers since the 1992 Barcelona games.

NBC has had more women's sport to show than ever before. Along with football, women's fast-pitch softball was added to the Olympic programme. Basketball was expanded from eight to 12 teams, fencing added women's team and individual epee events and the women's field hockey tournament included 10 more games.

The athletics programme substituted the 5,000m for the 3,000m and added the triple jump, while in swimming women competed in a 4 x 200m freestyle relay for the first time.

Women athletes hope the increased exposure will encourage girls to take up sports. Sports sponsors hope increased exposure will feed the demand for training shoes and other paraphernalia among women.

Publicity has already boosted some athletes' earning power.

Kerri Strug, hero of the gold medal-winning U.S. gymnastics team, has signed up with sports agent Leigh Steinberg.

She is the first woman client of Steinberg, agent for many of the National Football League's top quarterbacks.

Strug and some of her gymnastics teammates already have a date booked on David Letterman's late night chat show, and Strug is rumoured to be joining basketball great Michael Jordan as one of the athletes immortalised on a Wheaties cereal box.

But a study by the Women's Sports Foundation comparing earnings of men and women competitors in five sports, golf, beach volleyball, bowling, tennis and Alpine skiing, found that women athletes are still earning half of what their male counterparts earn, if not less.

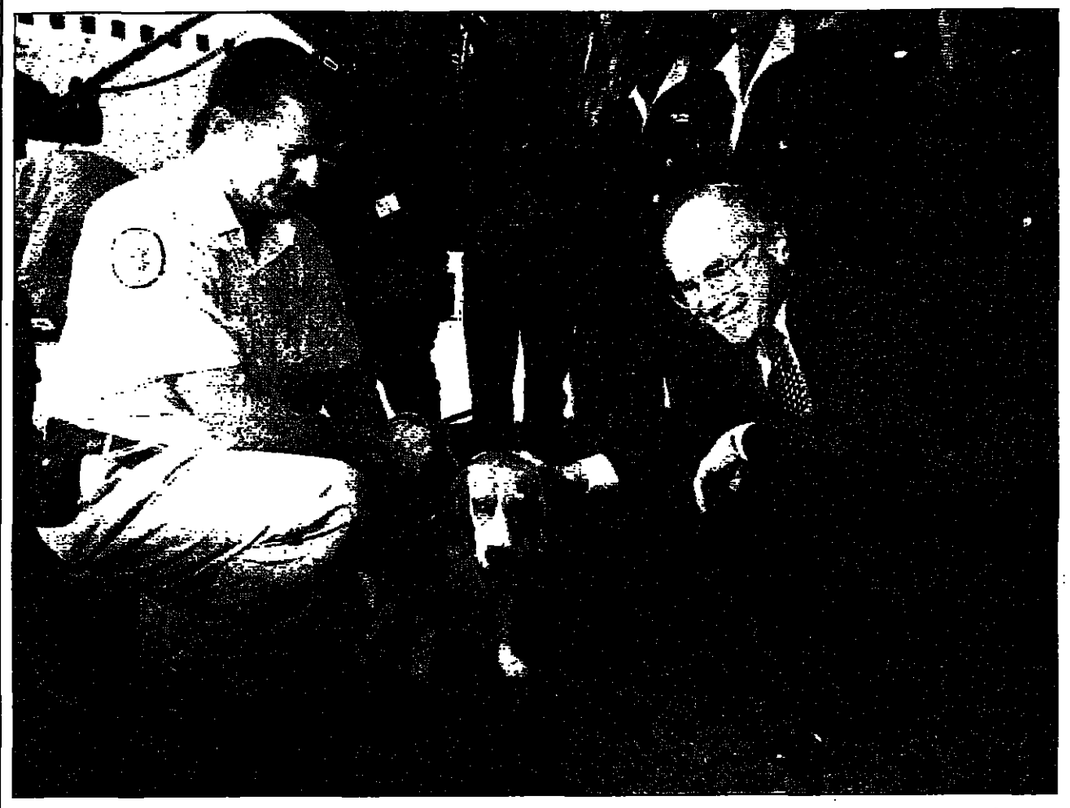
The real test will come after the excitement of the games has worn off.

The mighty National Basketball Association believe the excitement of the Olympics provides the perfect boost to their new women's league.

As to whether the fledgling WNBA will be able to lure the international players who helped make the Olympic tournament a success, Brazilian star Hortencia said the women's league will run on the same fuel that powers the NBA.

"It is a new league, but it will be ruled by an old thing," she said. "Money."

Friendly Australian security pledged for Sydney Olympics



Australian Prime Minister John Howard (right) inspects customs officer Wayne Plant's drug and bomb sniffer dog 'Buzz' after welcoming home Australia's Olympic team at Sydney Airport Wednesday. Mr. Howard pledged that Australia would handle security at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games in a friendly Australian way (Reuter photo)

SYDNEY (R) — Australian Prime Minister John Howard pledged Wednesday that his government would help beef up security for the Sydney 2000 Olympics if necessary, but that organisers would strive to keep security as relaxed as possible.

"Obviously we'll have a look at the security situation... There's clearly a role for the federal government," Mr. Howard told reporters after welcoming home Australia's Atlanta Olympics team in a Sydney Airport hangar.

International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch told Sydney organisers to look again at their security arrangements after the bomb blast late last month which killed two people and injured 110 at Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park.

"But I think there's also a need to understand that there is an Australian way of handling security problems," Mr. Howard said.

"We have our own culture, our own style and we want the games of the new millenium to be an event that people remember, enjoy and feel free and happy about," he said.

Sydney 2000 Olympic officials said after the Atlanta bombing that they would look at introducing new security laws, but that they were also wary of creating a "fortress Olympic Games."

After the Atlanta bombing, security personnel cordoned off areas of the city and vigorously searched spectators, athletes and the media before allowing them into venues.

The atmosphere late in the games was often described by media as fortress Atlanta.

Mr. Howard scotched speculation that his five-month-old conservative government would slash funding for Australia's Olympic athletes, saying no such cuts were planned.

"We are giving an unambiguous commitment to maintain the funding that we previously committed," he said.

Some commentators had said the government would extend its planned widespread budget cuts to sports.

Australia has said it would spend 135 million Australian dollars ($105 million) over the next six years to ensure its athletes do well in Sydney.

Washington Bullets re-sign Howard

BALTIMORE (AP) — Five days after the NBA rejected his seven-year, $100 million deal with the Miami Heat, free agent Juwan Howard has re-signed with the Washington Bullets.

However, a Florida court decision will determine exactly whose uniform the foward will be wearing this *fall*.

The Bullets signed Howard to a seven-year deal Monday after agreeing to forfeit their first-round selection in next year's college draft. Terms of the pact were not disclosed.

"We are very pleased that Juwan Howard will be in a Bullets uniform next season and for years to come," Bullets general manager Wes Unseld said in a statement announcing the signing.

Howard's agent, David Falk, was traveling outside the country and not available for comment. Howard, who finished 10th in the NBA in scoring last season with a 22.1 points per game average, also refused to comment.

Both the Bullets and the NBA said the deal is contingent on a judicial decision.

"The Howard-Washington contract is subject to the terms of the injunction issued by a state court judge in Florida, to the extent those terms are valid and binding," the NBA said in a statement.

After becoming a free agent, Howard turned down a reported $90 million offer by the Bullets in mid-July and signed with Miami. The NBA rejected the Miami deal last Wednesday, saying the Heat exceeded the league's salary cap by agreeing to pay Howard $9 million next season.

Last Friday, the Heat went to court in Florida, challenging the NBA's decision. Dade County Circuit Judge Joseph Farina issued a temporary injunction prohibiting Howard and the NBA from entering into and-or approving an NBA contract until arbitrators settle the dispute over Howard's contract.

A hearing to settle the dispute is scheduled to be held later this month.

David Osnos, a Bullets attorney, said the deal with Howard would not be "fully effective until certain legal issues regarding the arrangement between Howard and the Miami Heat have been resolved."

Monday's signing did cost the Bullets their first-round selection in next year's college draft.

When it was announced last month that Howard had reached agreement with Miami, the Bullets renounced their rights to the 6-foot-9 player, who had spent his first two years with Washington.

But after disapproving the Miami contract, Commissioner David Stern determined that Washington was eligible to reacquire Howard's rights, the NBA said in a statement released Monday night.

However, since Washington had engaged in a number of other player transactions after renouncing the rights to Howard, Stern concluded that the Bullets must forfeit their 1997 first-round draft choice if they wished to sign Howard.

Bullets spokesman Doug Hicks Monday said the team held no grudge against Howard for leaving. The Miami deal enraged Bullets fans.

"Obviously, he did what he thought was in his best interest," Hicks said. "This is a business and we understand that."

Medalless Cambodian Olympic team returns beaten but not bowed

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Cambodia's first Olympic team in nearly 25 years returned home medalless from Atlanta Wednesday having been soundly beaten in all their events but nonetheless optimistic about the future.

Smiling and dressed in the same uniforms they wore marching into the opening ceremony, Cambodia's five Olympic competitors, two swimmers, a wrestler and two runners, said at Phnom Penh's Pochentong International Airport that they enjoyed the games regardless of the poor finishes.

"The most important thing for us was to show the world that the Cambodian flag was there," said Prum Bun Yee, the head of the delegation. "We all now understand clearly what our abilities are. We need to learn a lot more from (other countries)."

The top Cambodian athlete at the games, 28-year-old marathon runner To Rithya, who came in 105th out of 111 finishers in his event, agreed.

"The events have given me good experience in comparing myself to the other runners," said To Rithya, who became the first Cambodian athlete to carry the country's flag into the Olympics since the 1972 games in Munich.

Cambodia's two female athletes — entered in the 100-metre breaststroke and the 100-metre sprint — both finished dead last in their preliminary heats but still smiled and shrugged off the sarcastic comments of airport security staff who yelled "where are the medals?" as the team walked out.

Athletics trainer Yem Oddom said he had not known how far behind his country had fallen since the brutal Khmer Rouge regime and a decade of civil war that followed.

"We carefully selected our athletes to compete there, but now we understand that at that kind of high competition we are very far behind," he said.

"But this doesn't mean we should stop our commitment to sports."

Hem Lumphat, the 22-year-old 200-metre individual medley swimmer who was disqualified in his preliminary heat, said he was "embarrassed" by his performance, but that he would work and train harder in the future.

"I was very embarrassed because I could not bring a medal home, but I'm glad I can see now that my abilities are very weak compared to the others. All of the others were very good swimmers and I need to do much more work before I can win."

Though some of the delegation said they had been a bit put off by the food available at the Olympic Village, none of them complained about Atlanta's staging of the games which has been vehemently criticised by other nations.

Even the pipe-bomb blast that killed two people and wounded more than 100 others in the Olympic Centennial Park did not appear to phase the Cambodians.

"I don't really want to comment on this, but it was not a surprise for us because we have seen bombs before," said delegation chief Prum Bun Yee.

He added that he would be telling Cambodian government and sporting officials about the need for better training facilities and more money to sponsor athletes.

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Christie beaten in 1st sprint after Atlanta

SESTRIERE, Italy (R) — Britain's Linford Christie ran his first 100 metres race Wednesday since his shock disqualification in the Olympic final but could only manage second place behind Canada's Bruny Surin.

Surin, who was part of Canada's triumphant 4x100 metres Olympic relay squad, won in a time of 10.17 seconds with Christie trailing in more than a 10th of a second behind.

The 36-year-old Christie was ordered off the track at the Olympic 100 metres final in Atlanta 11 days ago after making two false starts but said despite the disqualification he was still the greatest athlete in the world.

Many competitors travelled to this high altitude ski resort in northwestern Italy direct from Atlanta in the hope of setting world records.

In the event, none of them managed to shake off their jet lag and find the inspiration, despite the fact organisers were offering a new Ferrari sports car to any record breakers.

Allen Johnson, who won the Olympic gold medal in 110 metres hurdles, said Tuesday he was convinced the world record was now within his grasp.

Racing alongside current record holder Colin Jackson of Britain, Johnson got off to a flying start but then struggled in the face of a stiff headwind and hit two hurdles heavily.

He still managed to win the race, but his time of 13.25 was well outside Jackson's record of 12.91 set three years ago.

Johnson and shot putter Randy Barnes were the only two U.S. gold medallists to come to Sestriere, with the others deciding to attend a reception being thrown for them by President Bill Clinton later Wednesday.

Barnes won his gold medal after a tense tussle with John Godina and he triumphed again over his compatriot in another close competition in Sestriere.

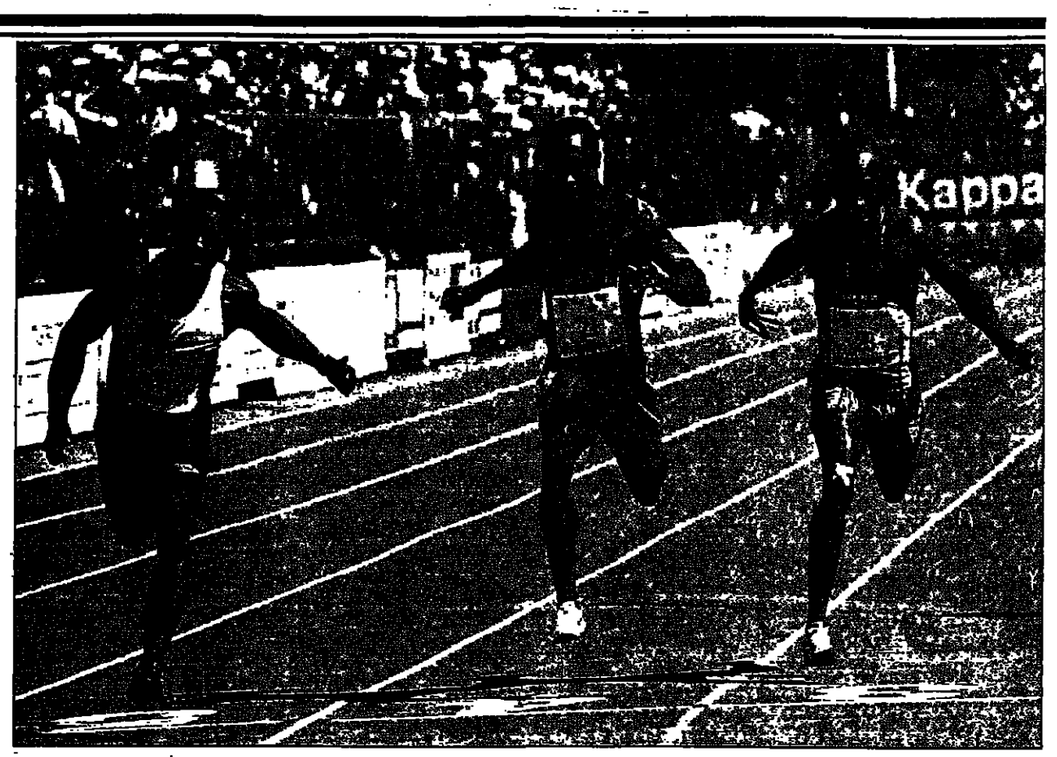
Britain's Olympic silver medalist Jonathan Edwards won Wednesday's triple jump event with a final leap of 17.57 metres, well inside his world record of 18.29 metres.

"It was disappointing not to do better but I was tired after the Olympics...I think we were all feeling a bit flat," he told reporters.

Sestriere, which is due to host next year's world ski championships, is the only place to regularly hold international athletics meetings more than 2,000 metres above sea level — an altitude which can help boost athletes' performances.

Two years ago Sergei Bubka broke his pole vault world record here while in 1995, Cuba's Ivan Pedroso set a new long jump mark, although it was later annulled amid claims the wind machine had been interfered with.

The European athletics circuit continues in earnest Saturday with a grand prix meeting in Monte Carlo followed by the prestigious Zurich meeting on Aug. 14.



Bruny Surin (left) of Canada, Linford Christie (centre) of Great Britain and Davidson Ezinwa of Nigeria in action during the men's 100 metre race at the high altitude ski resort of Sestriere in northwestern Italy Wednesday. Surin won the race with a time of 10.17 seconds with Christie trailing in more than a 10th of a seconds behind. Ezinwa was placed fourth (Reuter photo)

Nigeria makes most of Olympic gold medal

LAGOS (R) — As Nigeria's national soccer team basks in the glory of winning a gold medal at the Olympic Games, the military government is hoping some of the lustre might brighten up its own sorry image.

The Nigerian contingent to the Atlanta games flies into the capital Abuja Wednesday and military ruler General Sani Abacha is due to preside over a state reception for them.

Influential Nigerians are falling over one another to congratulate Gen. Abacha and the team. They point to the performance as evidence that Nigeria can excel despite the pariah status it has earned over its lack of democracy and military repression.

"As a Nigerian who is concerned with the international image of the nation, my heart was full of joy when I saw the flag of Nigeria flying and seen by over one billion people all over the world." Oil Minister Dan Etete said in a congratulatory message to Gen. Abacha and the team published in newspapers.

The military administrator of Akwa Ibom state, Colonel Yakubu Bako, said: "The soccer victory has gone a long way to prove that given a fair chance, Nigeria has the potential and resources to surmount the obstacles in her path to greatness."

The nation marked Monday as a public holiday to celebrate the gold medal Nigeria won Saturday when the team came twice from behind to beat Argentina 3-2 in the nail-biting final.

Although the match was shown live, television stations have since screened the match again half a dozen times.

While Nigeria appears united in acknowledging team's performance, some think it should not be used to divert attention from serious national problems.

"Congratulations Nigeria but this does not compensate for the situation in the country," said Buki James, a postgraduate student of Lagos University, which like all Nigeria's 40 campuses has been shut for months because of lecturers' strike.

The campus strike is only a tiny bit of the crisis that has dogged Africa's most populous nation since 1993 when the army annulled a presidential poll which was supposed to restore democracy.

Moshood Abiola, who is believed to have won the vote, has been in detention since 1994 when he proclaimed himself president.

In November, nine minority rights activists were hanged for murder despite worldwide appeal for clemency. The action led to a recall of senior ambassadors while several sanctions were imposed and Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth.

The military government responded to the criticism by saying it should be left alone to pursue its own path to democracy.

So far some politicál detainees have been freed while Gen. Abacha's programme to hand over to an elected president in 1998 appears on course with political parties now being formed.

Nigerians expect the soccer truimph, the first by an African nation, to help boost their country's poor international image.

Nigeria won its first ever Olympic gold last Friday when policewoman Chioma Ajunwa won the women's long jump.

Ajunwa stands to get one million naira ($12,345) promised by the authorities for any individual gold medalist. The soccer team will share five million naira ($61,728) while several rich Nigerians have also promised them large amounts of money.

The money and other gifts such as plots of land were expected to be presented to the winners by Abuja Wednesday.

Sampras wins, advances at ATP

MASON, Ohio (AP) — Top ten players Pete Sampras and Jim Courier won their opening mat-ches against unseeded opponents in high heat and humidity to advance in the ATP Championship.

Sampras summarily disposed of Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek 6-3, 6-4 in 57 minutes Tuesday night, after Courier needed two hours and 12 minutes to overcome England's Greg Rusedski in the previous match 6-7 (3-7), 6-3, 6-4.

Sampras, the tournament's top seed and the world's top-ranked player, said he was pleased with his performance after having taken five weeks off since his quarterfinal loss at Wimbledon.

"To beat a guy like Jakob who's given me problems in the past with a big serve, it was a good test," Sampras said. "I think I handled it pretty well."

Hlasek had defeated Wade McGuire Monday to face Sampras.

The unseeded Rusedski, who eliminated Denmark's Kenneth Carlsen Monday, used a powerhouse serve to beat Courier in their 56-minute first set. Courier battled back with an aggressive serve and crafty groundstrokes as Rusedski's serve got erratic in the waning stretch of the match in 80 per cent humidity and a temperature in the low 80s centigrade (26-28 Fahrenheit).

Courier, the world's ninth-ranked player, has beaten Rusedski all three times they have played.

Courier, who lives in Miami, said he thrives in extreme conditions, but needed time to regain his intensity.

"I hadn't played many matches since the French Open. It's always difficult to get the mind going — the intensity. The body's willing, but the mind isn't," he said.

Rusedski said he hurt himself because he wasn't aggressive in returning Courier's serves.

"If you don't play intelligent tennis, and get on the back of the court against Jim, you're going to get beat," Rusedski said. "I'm disappointed, the way I returned. I wasn't attacking him."

All the other seeded players in action Tuesday — No. 9 Wayne Ferreira, No. 11 Malivai Washington and No. 14 Cedric Pioline — won their matches to advance.

Spain's Sergei Bruguera, still weary from his Olympic silver medal-winning performance last week, lost to Australia's Patrick Rafter 6-1, 6-4.

Rafter, ranked 68th on the tour, had been 0-5 in his career against Bruguera.

"I was here without energy," said the 70th-ranked Bruguera, who came to the ATP straight from Atlanta, where he lost to Andre Agassi, 6-2, 6-3, 6-1 in the gold-medal round.

"Even practice was very, very tough for me," he said. "The Olympics go for two weeks like a Grand Slam event, and I've never played in a tournament the week after a Grand Slam."

Rafter, who reached the second round of last week's Infiniti Open in Los Angeles, also confessed to being tired.

"I've been trying to get over a cold," he said. "I was able to hang in there for the first few games and then I was able to lift my game while his just remained flat."

Agassi teased Bruguera about his Olympic loss before saying that he, too, was tired.

"I beat up on him didn't I?" Agassi said. "It was definitely draining, especially with all the security involved and the daily protocol of just getting into the locker room. It might take me a little longer to get going again, but I don't think it will be too much of a problem."

Washington, the Wimbledon runner-up, needed to win 12 of the final 15 points, including eight in a row, to overcome having his serve broken twice in the second set of a 6-4, 7-5 win over France's Guillaume Raoux.

Ferreira defeated Belgium's Filip Dewulf 6-2, 6-3. Pioline was extended to three sets before overcoming Australia's Sandon Stolle, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

India rues poor showing but sole bronze stirs hope

NEW DELHI (R) — India, the world's most populous nation after China, rued a dismal showing at the Atlanta Olympic Games but its sole medal, a bronze for tennis at the weekend, stirred some hope for the future.

The attraction and glamour of the Olympics has never taken a full hold on the estimated 930 million people in India, where respect for sports generally has been lacking — with the notable exceptions of cricket and hockey.

"We are a nation of spectators, not sportsmen," Lokesh Sharma, managing director of a sports promotion company, 21st Century Media, told Reuters.

India sent a 49-member team to Atlanta for events ranging from track and field to tennis, hockey, judo, archery and wrestling. Most of them fell in the early rounds.

Its one medal, won by Leander Paes in tennis, compared with the 16 gold, 22 silver and 12 bronze medals taken by China.

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Salim Bandak
on Saturday, August 10th, 1996,
at 6.30 pm at *Al-Baidar* Hall of the historic village
of *Kan Zaman.*
The exhibition will run until August 31st.
From 8:00 - 11:00 pm.
For further information, please call 736449

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U.S. vows to go it alone in Libya, Iran sanctions

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States, facing criticism from Europe over its stringent sanctions on Iran and Libya, vowed Tuesday to stand firm against regimes it accuses of spreading international terror.

The State Department reiterated its call to European countries to join in the drive to isolate Tehran and Tripoli, alleging that such action would make Europe eligible for a sanctions waiver.

"The United States is going to go forward. We're going to implement this bill," spokesman Nicholas Burns said as protest notes from European governments continued to pour into the State Department.

Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Pakistan, Russia and Switzerland all protested the law signed by President Bill Clinton Monday.

The Iran-Libya Sanctions Act requires the president to slap sanctions on foreign companies that invest more than $40 dollars annually in Iran and Libya oil and gas sectors.

European governments argue that the law violates international trade agreements and have vowed to retaliate against the measure, similar to another sanctions law punishing firms that do business in Cuba.

Mr. Burns said Washington is prepared to defend the legislation before the World Trade Organisation if the European governments decide to challenge its legitimacy.

"Nothing at this point can dissuade the U.S. from implementing American law," Mr Burns said, "but we'd like to cooperate with the Europeans."

He also offered an escape, saying that the United States would consider waiving sanctions against any country that "decides to take a tougher policy against Iran." Mr Burns stressed that this did not explicitly mean that European governments would have to forsake their policy of "critical dialogue" with the Islamic fundamentalist regime in Tehran.

Unlike the United States, European countries, France and Germany in particular, believe that cutting off contacts with Tehran will further radicalise the regime.

While they have supported a U.N. arms and aviation embargo placed on Tripoli in 1992, the European governments have been reluctant to disrupt trade ties with Libya for its refusal to turn over two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103.

They believe that Washington is pointing the finger at Iran and Libya while being engaged diplomatically with Syria, another country on its list of "terrorist states", in an effort to broker a peace agreement with Israel.

The State Department responded Tuesday that Iran and Libya were actively supporting "terrorist" organisations that target Israel and the United States while Syria has limited its involvement to harbouring terrorists.

According to Washington, Europe has an interest in *combating Iran as a terrorist* source because much of the violence is being carried out on European soil, although many of those were staged by local groups in Northern Ireland and Spain.

Republican Senator Alfonse D'Amato, author of the sanctions bill, voiced confidence that Europe would follow the U.S. lead and toughen their approach to Iran and Libya.

"I think eventually the allies will join us," Mr. D'Amato said in an interview with CBS television.

"It's in their interest to stop doing business as usual with the Iranians, with the Libyans, with whoever and whatever nation sponsors these kinds of terrorist attacks."

Libya's ambassador to the United Nations rejected the U.S. claims that Tripoli sponsored terrorism and reiterated that his country was prepared to have the two suspects in the Pan Am bombing tried in a neutral country.

"We reject this law," he said in CNN interview, saying it reflected the U.S. "tyranny of power."

Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi claimed it was the U.S. presence in the Gulf that "has added to the instability" in the region.

He told CNN that "the United States is motivated to sell more arms to the countries in that region ..."

"The best way to have a secure Persian Gulf for the free flow of oil is to have a security mechanism signed by the Persian Gulf (countries) without foreign intervention," Mr. Kharrazi said.

U.S. embassy in Kuwait gets bomb threat

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) - The U.S. embassy said Wednesday that it has received a bomb threat *against an American* government installation in Kuwait.

"It was a threat against an American government installation. We are taking further precautions," said a US embassy spokesperson.

The threat was relayed to the U.S. embassy by an unidentified Arabic newspaper.

Al Siyasseh Newspaper published an article on Wednesday that said a "local newspaper" had received a warning of a bomb attack against a U.S. government installation.

The embassy was informed of the threat on Tuesday, and the spokesperson declined to comment on whether the embassy may have received more threats on Wednesday.

A spokesperson said Sunday that the U.S. embassy had not heard of any threats received by U.S. interests in Kuwait.

U.S. government and military installations around the Gulf have stepped up security since the June 25 truck bombing killing 19 U.S. airmen and wounding hundreds of others at a military base in Khobar, Saudi Arabia.

The U.S. embassy in Kuwait is building a fence of concrete blocks outside the main wall and the U.S. military has extended its *fence at Camp Doha north* of Kuwait City where several hundred U.S. military personnel are stationed.

Since the Khobar bombing, the U.S. embassy has advised American citizens in Kuwait to "be vigilant of their personal security and surroundings." Several senior U.S. officials, including U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry, have visited Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in the last few weeks to review security measures for U.S. forces in the region.

After his July visit, Mr Perry said U.S. forces are now on "the highest possible threat level" and have been instructed to prepare for an "imminent" attack.

In December 1983, the U.S. and French embassies in Kuwait were hit by bombings claimed by Islamic jihad. Five people were killed and 61 wounded in the attacks. The United States opened its new embassy earlier this year in a Kuwait City suburb. There are no combat troops based in Kuwait, but brigade *equipment is main*tained on a rotating basis by a battalion of 1,500 U.S. troops at Camp Doha in the desert north of Kuwait city.

Israel may self-finance military deal with Turkey

EL AVIV (AFP) - The Israeli government is considering plans to provide direct funding for a $600 million deal to upgrade U.S.-made fighter planes for Turkey after Israeli banks balked at joining the project, officials said Tuesday.

A spokesman for the finance ministry said plans were being drawn up to fund the project via a state loan to Turkey's finance ministry rather than rely on banks to provide the money as originally hoped.

"We are considering going government-to-government on this, although talks with the banks are still continuing," spokesman Eli Yosef told AFP.

As part of a landmark military cooperation agreement signed between Israel and Turkey in February, the state-owned Israel aircraft industries was to modernise 54 phantom jet fighters for the Turkish air force at a cost of some $600 million over several years.

Initially the government expected Israeli banks to provide Turkey with a $457 million loan to help finance the project, with the Israeli state guaranteeing $410 million of the funds.

But after months of negotiations, the banks have balked at participating, saying they were unwilling to take the risk of losing up to $47 million in the event Turkey faulted on the loan, a ministry official said.

Israel fears the negative consequences of having to cancel the modernisation programme both on Israel's relations with Turkey and on employment at Israel Aircraft Industries, officials said, and so the finance ministry decided to try direct financing of the project *if the banks back out.*

Mr. Yosef suggested that a decision would come soon but stressed that the ministry would have to seek parliamentary approval of direct state financing of the project.

Israel's defence agreement with Muslim Turkey has drawn strong criticism from Arab states in the region and has caused unease with the Islamic-led government which took power in Ankara in July.

The Turkish foreign ministry announced on Wednesday that the finalisation of another project foreseen by the military cooperation pact concerning joint development of military technology had been postponed.

The agreement was to have been signed during a visit to Ankara this week by David Ivry, director general of the Israeli defence ministry, but the trip was put off pending further talks on the project, the ministry said.

"*But the agreement will* be signed in the near future," said ministry spokesman Nurettin Nurkan in Ankara. The Israeli defence ministry declined to comment on the reported trip of Ivry to Ankara.

In addition to the aircraft modernisation agreement, the defence accord also includes cooperation in military training, including the use of Turkish airspace for Israeli air manoeuvres, according to Turkish press reports.

The air manoeuvres were sharply condemned by Syria, Iraq and Iran.



FIRST TOURISTS VISIT SARAJEVO'S BURNED DOWN LIBRARY: A group of 36 Spanish tourists on Wednesday visits Sarajevo's burned down national library. They are the first foreign tour group to visit the Bosnian capital in more than four years and set out to wander the battered city streets trying to reconcile wartime images with current peacetime bustle (Reuters photo)

Japanese foreign minister to visit Jordan for talks on peace process, bilateral ties

By P.V.Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda is scheduled to visit Jordan this month as part of a four-country tour of the Middle East in an effort aimed at gaining firsthand information on the status of the Arab-Israeli peace process, and exploring how Tokyo could help advance the peace negotiations.

Japanese officials in Tokyo have made no secret of their concern about the course of the Middle East peace process after the May elections in Israel that saw a hardline government emerging there, casting a cloud over Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"We are indeed concerned over the course of the peace *process," said Ambassador* Nobuo Matsunaga, a special representative of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, in an interview with the Jordan Times in Tokyo last month.

"We are keeping a close watch over the situation and hope that all parties respect and live up to what has been agreed upon between them," said Mr. Matsunaga, president of the Japanese Institute for International Affairs and a former ambassador to the United States.

In the meantime, Mr. Matsunaga said, "Japan, which has consistently supported the peace process since it was launched, would like to know what it could do to help advance the peace process."

Mr. Ikeda is expected to be received by His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, and Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, according to the sources.

Others holding talks with the Japanese foreign minister will be the Jordanian economic team — the ministers of finance, industry and trade and planning.

Mr. Ikeda's talks will cover *bilateral relations, the latest* developments in the Middle East peace process and efforts to boost the emerging Japanese political role in the region, according to the sources.

The sources said the two sides are expected to sign agreements under which Japan will provide assistance to Jordan as outright grants as well as tied and untied loans that have been under discussions for several months.

The sources said definite details were being worked out and no figures were immediately available.

Japan has been a consistent source of assistance to Jordan and it has said that it stands ready to extend further aid to help the Kingdom's effort to achieve self-reliance.

Mr. Ikeda's discussions will also cover a planned visit by Prime Minister Kabariti to Japan. The visit was tentatively scheduled to take place in March, but Tokyo's preoccupation with a parliamentary deadlock on the fiscal budget forced a postponement of the visit.

The Japanese minister will begin the Middle East tour in Egypt on Aug. 20 and go to Syria, where he will meet Syrian leaders and also visit *the Japanese unit serving with* the U.N. Disengagement Observer Force on the Golan Heights.

He will arrive in Amman on Aug. 24 and leave for the West Bank and Israel the next day. He is scheduled to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat as well as Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu.

Mr. Arafat is tentatively scheduled to visit Japan Sept.10-14, according to sources in Tokyo. The visit has assumed greater significance in that it is a signal of strong Japanese support for the Palestinians in their peace negotiations with Israel.

Mr Ikeda will be the first high-ranking Japanese official to visit the Middle East after former Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama visited in September.

Mr. Ikeda represented his country at the Summit of Peacemakers in the Egyptian resort of Sharm Al Sheikh in April.

His visit to Amman follows the successful conclusion of a Japan Week in Jordan in June that underscored the strength of relations between the two countries.

"We attach high importance to our relationship with Jordan and are ready to help Jordan whenever we can," said Ambassador Matsunaga, who described King Hussein and Jordan as a source of moderation and stability in the troubled Middle East.

"We always want to consult with His Majesty on all issues of mutual concern, and the course of the Middle East peace process is indeed a key issue for us," he added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqi opposition to help French police

NICOSIA (AFP) — An Iraqi Kurdish opposition group has sent a delegation to Paris to help solve the murder of its representative in the French capital, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) said Wednesday. French police said Jaffar Hassoo Gully was found murdered at his apartment on Monday. He had been strangled and his skull was fractured, in a murder which the KDP said was carried out on July 29. "The KDP *leadership has sent a three-member delegation to liaise with* French police and authorities, help in the investigation ... and to find out whether there was a political motive," the group said, in a statement received here. The KDP said that Gully, from Zakho on the border with Turkey, had lived in Paris since 1977 and taken part in most Kurdish and Iraqi opposition activities in France. French police, at first identifying the victim as a Turkish Kurd, said theft did not appear to be a motive, although documents had been removed. He was in charge of a company that had recently gone into liquidation.

Babel paper protests indecency ruling

BAGHDAD (AFP) — An Iraqi newspaper run by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday on Wednesday protested the information ministry's suspension of another publication for indecency. Babel newspaper asked the information and culture ministry to rescind its decision to suspend "Al Mussawer Al Arabi" (the Arab photographer) published by the Association of Iraqi Photographers. The ministry halted publication in July when Al Mussawer published the photograph of a woman breastfeeding her baby, saying it was a "violation" of public decency. "Since Saddam Hussein became president (in 1979), never has the ministry suspended an Iraqi publication," the vice-president of the Iraqi Journalists' Union, Daud Al Farhan, wrote in a Babel editorial. "We believe the measure is excessive because Iraqi law calls for sending a warning to a publication violating the rules before suspending it," he added. The suspended publication in recent months published articles criticising the bureaucracy and describing increasingly difficult living conditions because of the U.N. sanctions imposed six years ago this month. The state controls the Iraqi press.

Militants gun down 4 in Egypt

MINYA (AFP) — Gunmen opened fire on a crowd in a southern Egyptian village on Wednesday, killing two policemen and two civilians, police said. The gunmen mowed down a 20-year-old student and a peasant farmer aged 32 as well as the two policemen in the attack in Safai village near Abu Qurqas in the trouble-hit Mallawi region of Minya province before fleeing the scene. Police said they were yet to determine the motive for the attack. The four deaths raised to 1,043 the number of lives lost since militants launched a campaign in March 1992 to overthrow the government and set up an Islamic state.

Bahraini allowed to divorce husband with AIDS

MANAMA (AFP) — An Islamic court has allowed a woman to divorce her husband who has AIDS and retain custody of their two daughters, in an unprecedented case in Bahrain, Al Ayam newspaper said Wednesday. The court ruled in favour of the wife who had left home after learning her husband had the disease, even though he claimed Islamic law obliged her to stay with him, the paper said. The husband was given one month to work out the terms of the divorce or the court would impose it, it added. The court said the man was stricken with a "serious illness which could be spread through sexual relations," and "the wife's fear of being contaminated was justified."

Film on Nasser nets $40,000 on first day

CAIRO (AP) — Twenty-six years after his death, Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser can still draw the crowds. A film about Abdul Nasser netted 137,000 pounds ($ 40,000) on its first day Monday, the highest revenue for one day ever scored by an Egyptian film. "Nasser '56" stars Ahmad Zaki and chronicles 100 days of Abdul Nasser's life in 1956 when he nationalised the *Suez Canal from British and French ownership.* Abdul Nasser died in 1970 but remains revered in Egypt and Arab countries. The film is showing in 15 movie theatres around the country.

Egypt group to campaign for free thinking

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian human rights group said on Wednesday it would launch a campaign to defend freedom of thought in Egypt after a Cairo court ruled a happily married couple must separate on the grounds the husband was an apostate. An official at the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) said the year-long campaign would start on Thursday and would focus on the forced divorce of university professors Hamed Nasr Abu Zeid and his wife Ibtihal Younis. "EOHR expressed its shock at this ruling... Freedom of thought and belief is threatened by regressive forces who abuse the right to file a lawsuit to brand progressive thinkers and intellectuals as apostates," the group said in a statement. On Monday, Cairo's court of cassation threw its weight behind Islamists who were suing Abu Zeid by upholding a ruling made last year by another court that the professor's writings made him an unbeliever and so he must divorce his Muslim wife.

COLUMN 8

Record number of Japanese students play truant

TOKYO (AFP) — A record high number of primary and junior high school students skipped classes in Japan last year amid growing school problems, including bullying, the Education Ministry said Wednesday. A total of 81,562 students, aged between six and 15, were absent from school for 30 days or longer, up 4,113 from a year earlier and the biggest figure since the ministry started a survey of this kind in 1948. Citing "many factors" behind the truancy, a ministry official said a number of children came to hate school for "psychological reasons" like bullying.

Sex? Sure. But Cripple Creek is a worry

WASHINGTON (R) — Sex is fine, but rare. Breasts are more common and barely raise an eyebrow. But when something like Cripple Creek shows up on a U.S. map, Roger *Payne springs into action.* As chief of the U.S. Board of Geographic Names, Mr. Payne arbitrates disputes over what people can call hollows, deserts, streams and mountains across the country. Cripple Creek is a case in point. There are 67 Cripple Creeks around the United States and no one had ever objected to the name — until now, when a disabled person in Texas asked to call a nearby stream by that name to honour the handicapped. Advocates for the disabled objected, so the board must get involved. "The most important policy of the board is local use and acceptance," Mr. Payne said. "Standardisation is a mission, but it's in no one's best interest to force the issue." Sex, in terms of U.S. Mapmaking, is not taboo. The actual word "sex" appears only twice — in Sex Peak and Sex Peak Lookout, both in Montana. There are 10 breasts in U.S. place names, including Breast Island, Breast Mountain, Bear's Breast Mountain and Chicken *Breast Bluff.*

Australian frogs mailed overseas in black market

ADELAIDE (R) — Australia should lift its ban on the export of green tree frogs to stop the fatal practice of posting amphibians overseas for an international black market, an authority on frogs said Wednesday. "The appalling conditions in which they are exported means that around nine in 10 die en route or soon after their arrival," said Professor Mike Tyler, a director of the International Declining Amphibian Populations Taskforce. "The only way to halt this underground trade is to legalise exports to reputable breeders," Prof. Tyler said in a statement.

Colombian robber sticks up blood bank

BOGOTA, Colombia (R) — Bank robberies are commonplace in Colombia, with an average of about one per day in the nation's capital. But no one, until this week, had ever heard of a stickup at a blood bank. According to the domestic news agency Colprensa, that is what occurred early Monday in the southwest city of Cali, when a masked gunman slipped into a blood bank operated by the Red Cross. The agency said in a report from Cali that the gunman held up a cashier for more than $4,000 the Red Cross had collected from sales of blood to hospitals and revenues from laboratory test results. The gunman escaped without a trace.

Palestinians demand

Volume 21 Number

Beirut cabinet adopts new election law

(Continued on page 7)